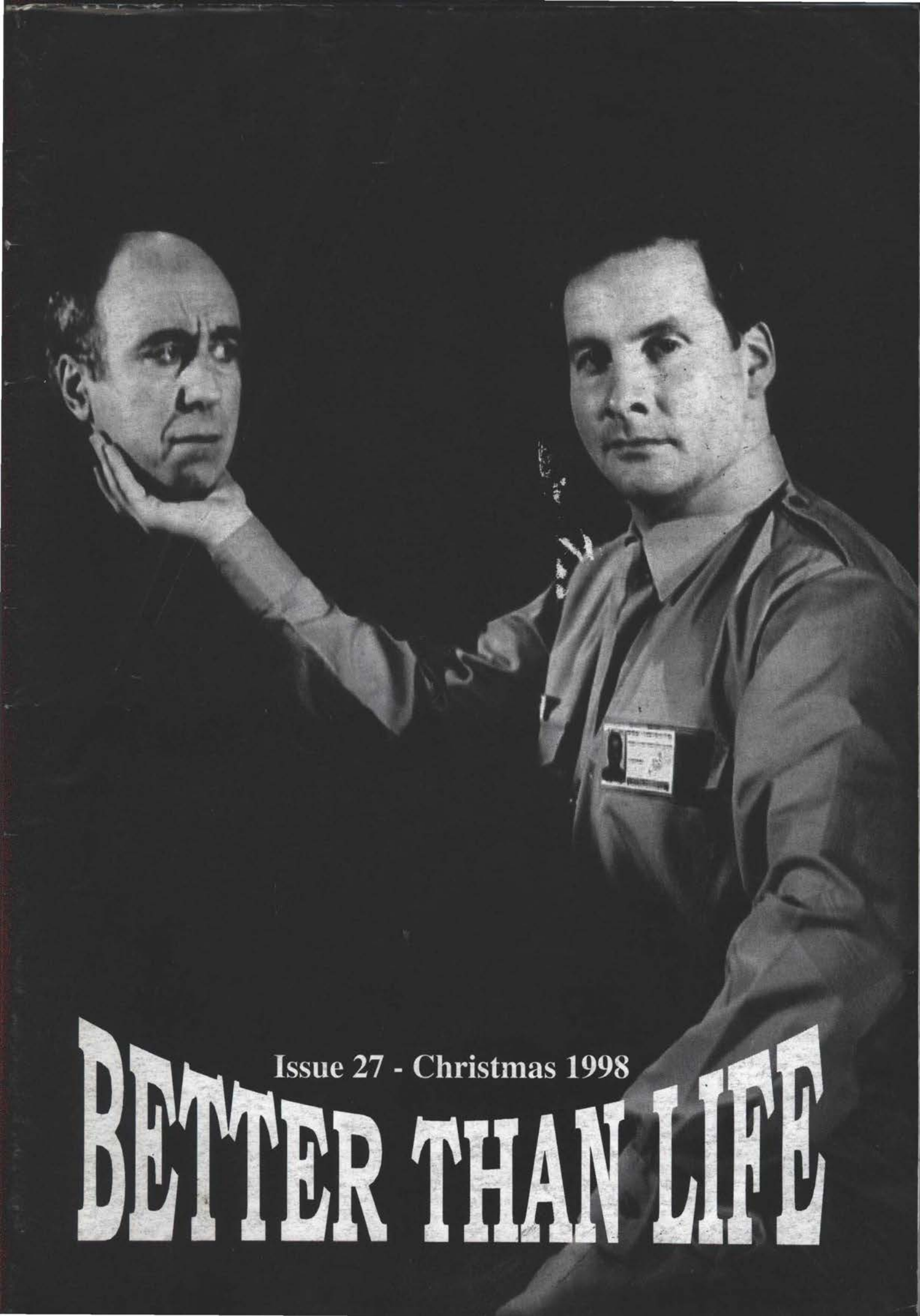




Issue 27 - Christmas 1998

BETTER THAN LIFE

Future Echoes

3	Red Dwarf News
5	Fan Club News
6	Featured Episode - The Inquisitor
8	Robert Llewellyn's book launch
9	Bay 47
11	Parallel Universe
19	Dimension Jump report
34	Post Pod
44	Merchandise

THE OFFICIAL RED DWARF FAN CLUB TEAM

Steev	Co-ordinator/Chairman
Bev	Editor
Rory	Merchandise
Sean	Technical
Caroline	Database
Tom Marwede	Australian Rep
Mark Kennedy	USA Rep
Di Hinton & Kim Stephenson	Steev's Handmaiden's

Birthdays

The main casts birthdays are as follows:

Robert Llewellyn	10 March
Chris Barrie	28 March
Craig Charles	11 July
Chloë Annett	25 July
Danny John-Jules	16 September
Norman Lovett	31 October
Hattie Hayridge	17 December

If you intend sending any of the cast a birthday card (or Valentines or Christmas card) please mail them to us at least a month in advance. Although we would like to forward all fan mail on a weekly basis it is not always economical or possible!

PHOTOGRAPHS

This issue the photos used have been taken by:
Mike Vaughan

PRINTERS

This issue of BTL was printed by Macprint, Hitchin & produced on Aldus Pagemaker and Bev's beautiful 8 fingers and 2 thumbs. 72 words per minute, I'm wasted here you know! Does anyone ever read these bits? I'm actually resigning - does anyone want my job?

BALANCE OF POWER STEEV

Hello, good evening and welcome as the most famous person from my home town would say.

Well the 10th Anniversary *Dimension Jump* turned out to be the *Red Dwarf* weekend to end all *Red Dwarf* weekends! Huge thanks to all the cast and Helen Norman for their continued support. Oh and some guy who looked like Elvis or was it Shankin Stevens. Missed it? Then read Bev's excellent write up this issue.

What's the difference between the internet debate and a camel with no legs? Nothing, they're both going nowhere. So we've knocked the debate on the head.

Well I'm off to sit on a jolly red faced man's knee and tell him what I want for Christmas.

Happy Chrimbo and see you next year for *RD VIII*.

BEV

Well hello there. How are we all doing? Recovered from *Dimension Jump* yet - those of you who attended? Ready for Christmas yet? Oh sorry, shouldn't have mentioned it should I?

Hello to all the people I met at this year's *Dimension Jump* - it was great to put so many faces to names at last. Although it must be said that I am pretty much tucked out of the way at *Dimension Jumps* (for everybody's safety) and I don't get to see any of it. So I hope you all had a fabulous time. The cast all thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were asking when we could hold another one - as they were so keen to do it all again! Singing with Elvis was probably the highpoint for the cast - judging by their excitement afterwards. "I sang with Elvis" was all any of us could make out for about an hour afterwards.

I actually met loads of new people - so hello to everyone - I can't name all of you - it would be a very uninteresting list for everyone else. I met some very nice people who belong to the newsgroup on the internet - two very nice young men - not at all like the picture painted by all the printouts I get sent. So I quite happily stand corrected - although they too agreed that some of the people on there are a tad on the 'lost cause' stage of life.

Anyway it's Christmas time soon. So, let's raise our glasses, and here's a toast, to *Red Dwarf* and to all its followers, may it grow ever older and bigger and funnier and may we all enjoy the journey together.

See you all next year.

Data Protection Act and Copyright

This is a statutory notice under the Data Protection Act. The names and addresses of Fan Club members are held on computer as an aid to administration. This information is for our use only and will not be disclosed to any third party without the prior consent of the individual. You have the right to have your details deleted and dealt with manually if you desire. The *Red Dwarf* name, logo and characters are copyright to Rob Grant and Doug Naylor and Grant Naylor Productions. No infringement is intended by the contents of this newsletter which is strictly non-profitmaking.

GROOVY CHANNEL 27 NEWS

IT'S PANTO TIME (OH YES IT IS!)

Yes it's that time of year again - Christmas and with that comes pantomime (behind you!)

This year one of the cast is appearing in theatres (hopefully) near you. Danny John-Jules will be appearing in Aldershot in Aladdin, playing the part of the Genie. The run starts on December 12 until January 2.

LATEST SERIES VIII

The latest news, as we go to print, is that the BBC have told Grant Naylor that they wish to broadcast Red Dwarf VIII from mid February 1999.

Mac MacDonald returns to series VIII for several episodes as Captain Hollister - the captain of Red Dwarf. Also appearing in series VIII will be Paul Bradley and David Gillespie (Selby and Chen) Jake Wood, Graham McTavish and Geraldine McEwan.

The latest news we have regarding episode titles and provisional broadcast times is as follows:

Episode 1 (the hour long special) is still called *Back in the Red* episode 2 is *Cassandra* episode 3's title has changed from *Captain's Office* to *Pete* episode 4 is *Pete II* episode 5 is *Krytie TV* episode 6 is still untitled and episode 7 is still entitled *Earth*, although a new title has not been revealed. Make of all that what you will.

Please bear in mind that these are still working titles and they may change.

VIDEOS

Available in shops now - are the first three remastered series of *Red Dwarf* packaged together in a box set. With a recommended retail price of £69.99 - we're sure some shops will be selling them. The box set should be available in all good video stockists. If you need to order it - the catalogue number is BBCV 6579.

If you'd fancy one of these fabulous box sets but can't afford them - turn to page 33 for your chance of winning one.

Also available in Woolworths only is a special video containing the *Smeg Ups* and *Smeg Outs*.

EXTRA RED DWARF

You may have noticed (if you are a UK member) a few weeks ago that BBC1's *Children In Need* telethon featured a specially written sketch from *Red Dwarf* for the evening.

The sketch was too long to be shown in its original 10.30 pm slot so it had to be shown at 12.15 am instead, but we have printed the script in this issue's *BTL* for those of you who missed it - with the odd bits that were cut out!!

Written by Paul Alexander, it was one of the most popular sketches of the night - we know we watched the entire thing! It featured the entire cast in the cockpit of Blue Midget.

Also, time permitting the *Red Dwarf* crew hope to film another sketch for next year's *Comic Relief* evening in March. So keep watching television!

But it doesn't end there. The cast have also filmed Christmas greetings on video for the British forces posted overseas and several promotional videos for the United States.

Talking of the States, by the time you're reading this, over 53% of American households should be able to watch *Red Dwarf*, thanks to BBC Worldwide negotiating with many US channels. So when are the other 47% going to get it?

ROB GRANT

Rob Grant has been hard at work - he's written a new comedy for Sky 1. Entitled *The Strangerers*, it will feature "an attempted invasion of Earth by utterly incompetent aliens."

The Strangerers is set to be broadcast in 2000, it will be Sky's first commissioned

comedy programme. It will be a series of 10 half hour programmes.

The cast has yet to be announced will include "two of television's biggest comic stars." Start speculating now, who it could be.

UK GOLD

Just to let you know that UK Gold is now showing series III of *Red Dwarf* at the moment.

Series IV will be following very soon, we are told.

GROOVY CHANNEL 27 NEWS

FAN MAIL

As you may appreciate we get loads of fan mail from fans to send to the cast. We pass mail onto the cast on a very regular basis - every single bit of it! But we cannot guarantee that a cast member will reply to it. Some of them reply, some of them don't, it's as simple as that.

We've had a couple of letters recently wanting reassurance that we do pass letters on, because they hadn't received a reply from some of the cast. Replies are dependant on how busy cast members are and whether they are actually in this country or not!

FREE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF BTL

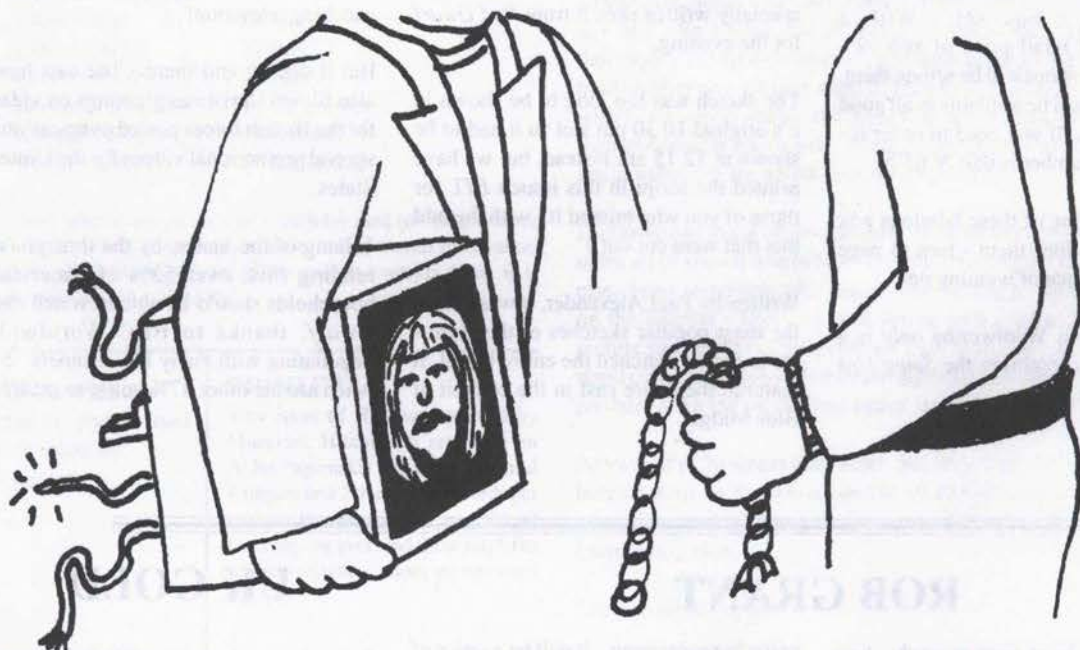
Did we say free? Yes we did!!

In every issue of *Better Than Life 28* there will be a full colour series VIII cast photo.

Pretty impressive, we're sure you'll agree. So to all you people that need to renew this issue, what better incentive do you need?

Also next issue we will have some fabulous photos from series VIII - and see what the cast have to say about the new series!

Can you wait?



"NO, CAT. WHEN I SAID 'GET THE XMAS HOLLY' I MEANT..."

©A. ELLARD

S.A.E.??

What are they? They're Stamped Addressed Envelopes (with YOUR address on it!)

If you want a reply from us please include an S.A.E. with your letter - otherwise we won't be able to help you. Nag over.

Fan Club News

DEADLINE

The deadline for the next issue of *Better Than Life* is 1 February 1999. This means that if you want anything to be included for the next issue of *Better Than Life* it must be with us by 1 February.

Please note - that this deadline is **NOT** the date *Better Than Life* will be with you!

NEW MERCHANDISE

We have several new items available in our merchandise section of *Better Than Life*. Launched recently at this year's Dimension Jump, we have three new T-shirt designs (all being very popular with the cast - they all demanded one!) We also have a 10th anniversary mug - which changes colour when hot liquid goes in it, plus a *Red Dwarf* pencil case.

For more information on on these and the rest of our merchandise please turn to pages 44 and 45.

WE'RE LATE!

Yes, we know we're late with this issue. At this year's *Dimension Jump* we put out several requests for people to send in copies of their photos for us to use in BTL. We've been waiting and waiting and so far (at the time of writing) only two people have sent in any photos!

So if any of you out there have any fab photos from this year's *Dimension Jump* - send us a copy we'd love to print them to show everyone what a great time we had! We especially need one of the cast with the 10th anniversary cake.

WE NEED PENPALS!

We have now got to the stage where we have printed all the penpal adverts we have received. We have a handful still for the next issue - but we need more!!

If you'd like a penpal write a short advert and we'll print it. First come/first printed - it's as simple as that.

May we remind you that Member's Adverts are also run on the same first come/first printed system. It is the only fair way to run these items.

DIMENSION JUMP '99

At the moment we have not found a hotel for holding a *Dimension Jump* weekend for 1999. Finding a hotel that will take more than 200 people is difficult. To run a *Dimension Jump* with only 200 people just would not be financially viable - as we're sure you can appreciate.

We will let you know by next issue what is happening - but it looks like we may just concentrate on *Dimension Jump 2000* - when hopefully *Red Dwarf - the movie* will have been filmed.

Special thanks go to Diane Hinton and Kim Stephenson for all their sterling work. Without them helping us out beyond the call of duty we don't know what we'd do. Also to Stephen Loader for sending us his videos.

IT'S CHRISTMAS!!

All the fan club team would like to wish all of you and your families a very happy Christmas.

Thank you for all the letters, stories, artwork, adverts, queries, even complaints over the year. It's what keeps the club alive and kicking.

We've been receiving Christmas cards from mid-November - the festivities always start early here - thank you very much to everybody who has sent us cards (and even chocolate!) they really are appreciated.

We'll all be having a few days off over Christmas - but we're raring to go with 1999 - series VIII starting on BBC2 is a perfect start to the year.

See you in '99.....

DIMENSION JUMP AUCTION

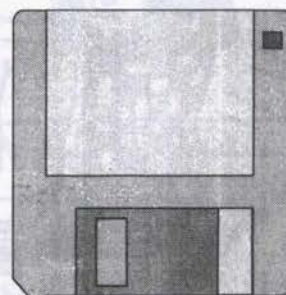
We still have several auction items, waiting to be paid for after *Dimension Jump*. If you are one of these people, please can you let us know how and when you will be paying. We will not be able to make a donation to Amnesty International until we have received the payments for these items. If you are going to be paying by installments - that's fine - could you just let us know.

Please remember that cheques should be made payable to *Dimension Jump*.

SENDING WORK ON DISC

If you would like to send work on disc to us please send it in **TEXT, WORD or ALDUS PAGEMAKER**. Please note this is PC format - **not** MAC.

This is especially useful for those of you sending in stories - as at the moment we're having to copy type them.



Featured Episode

THE INQUISITOR

JOHN CARNEY

At last, some bloke has rewritten the Trojan horse saga - so die splat ka-pow, die in your beds you Trojan pigs! (no offence.)

When the Inquisitor, a self-repairing droid, makes the time to visit our motley crew, Lister and Kryten are guilty of living worthless lives according to the Inquisitor. But when Kryten's future self comes to rescue them, he unfortunately gets his Spare Head 3 crushed and killed.

Now Lister and Kryten have a time gauntlet and use it to kill the Inquisitor.

This is a brilliant episode and it's as funny as the rest.

MICHAEL RAVEN

The Inquisitor steams of real RD to me. I always liked the old stories in series I and II where whole scenes wouldn't have anything particular happening, it would just be the dwarfers sitting around, joking (generally Rimmer.) Although there is the little matter of this nutty robot and the problem that the four dwarfers - in fact just Lister and Kryten - manage to kill this super-android that managed to 'judge' everyone else up to them. *The Inquisitor*

is excellent. My favourite part was the dismembered hand of Lister being used to open a door. Being a *Star Trek* nitpicker, I go through *Trek* episodes saying "Why didn't they just jump to warp before their warp core overloaded, catch up with the Klingons, blast their engines with a gravitational burst from the main deflector dish and board them? Well, this is really using all of the resources at Lister's command!

ANONYMOUS

This episode is easily one of the highest in my own personal list. What other episode gave you Lister's opinion of the Horse of Troy story, or his own brief of Rimmer's pathetic life? And those fantastic little gags that pepper the programme from beginning to end, like a well-made scrambled egg, are almost as good as the wonderful Inquisitor himself!

Bits to look out for:

1. The way Lister's pilot seat wobbles about when he's explaining how thick the Trojans were.
2. How lovely Chris Barrie looked when he justified himself.
3. The fab gauntlet field - you can't remaster that!

Best lines:

1. What happened to him - his voice finally break?
2. Pardon? Sir?

3. So, Kryten you've heard of this Inquisitor?

Only as a myth. A dark fable. A horror tale told over the flickering embers of a midnight fire. Where hardened space dogs gather to drink fermented vegetable products and compete in tales of blood chilling terror!

A simple yes would have sufficed.

4. Agh! What's that in the corner? It's the archangel Gabriel! Well that's me converted, I'm a new man, Hallelejah!

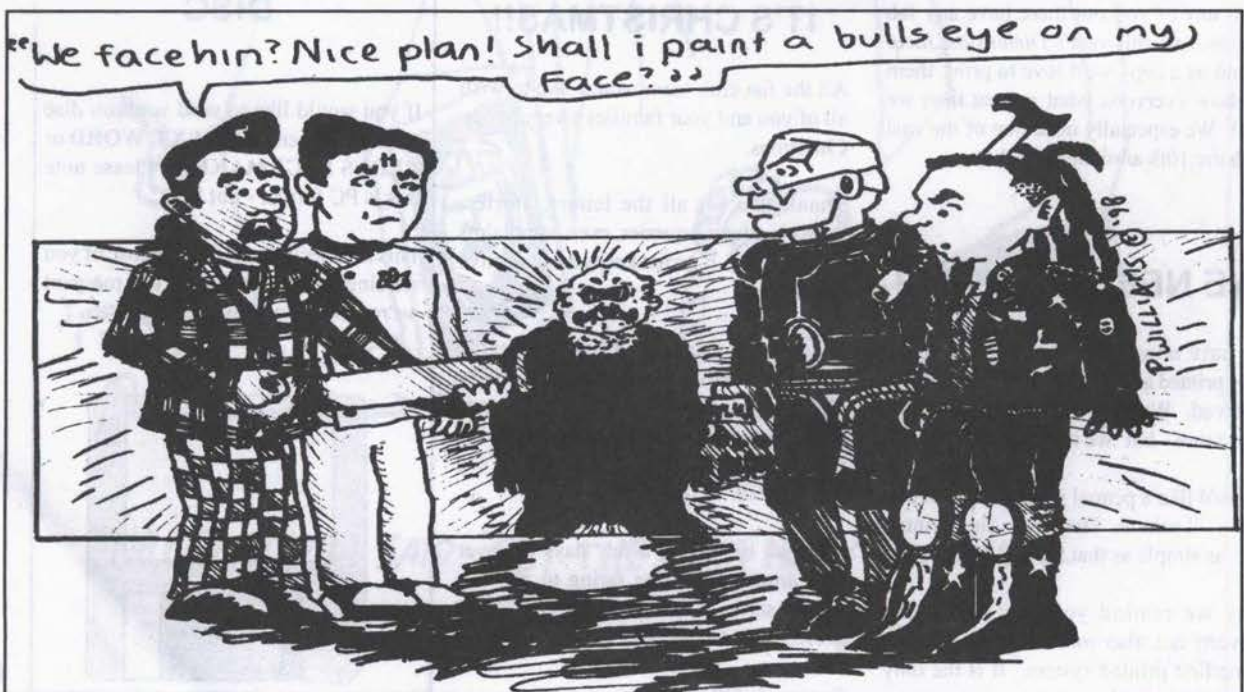
Well there isn't anything more I could say that I'm sure hasn't been said before, but thanks to this episode, I'll never be able to look at warm compost in the same light again!

PETER MARTIN

There's nothing better than a daft time travel story - and *The Inquisitor* is one of the daftest - it's also one of the funniest.

The alternate Kryten and Lister are a tad cheesy but with lines like "What happened to him - his voice finally break?" and "Oh. Smeg indeed, matey.." you just can't go wrong. It's just a shame that the episode was hidden away in the outstanding series V that is dominated by *Back to Reality* and *Quarantine*....

"Look, it's the Archangel Gãbriel." Classic.



JOE PAYNE

I wouldn't describe *The Inquisitor* as a classic *Red Dwarf* episode (and there are so many) but it still encompasses an (inevitably) great storyline from Grant Naylor. In many respects it's theme is more serious than most episodes of *Red Dwarf*, but that in no way discourages it from containing some cracking gags.

For instance Thomas Allman's "Is that you mother?" ensures that the comedy

begins straight away. Whilst I also think the crew's individual inquisitions are very well handled.

Aside from these, my best bits are:

Lister's philosophy on the wooden horse of Troy.

"What happened to him - his voice finally break?"

"A simple 'yes' would have sufficed."

"No plan sir, no sleeves."

Kryten trying to disguise the fact that his right foot is jiggling!

I think the show has a slightly weak ending too, but overall I can have very few complaints as it is still brilliant *Red Dwarf* comedy.

JAMES TROTTER

My absolute favourite part is "I have given pleasure to the world because I have such a beautiful arse." And the bit at the end "I'll do better than that. I'll give you fifteen."

I thought the story was just great, the idea of an android travelling through time, erasing people from history who didn't lead a worthwhile life is just great. I found the bit when Lister said "The Cat has had a more worthwhile life than either of us?" and the Inquisitor said "He is a shallow and selfish creature as is the hologram. By their own standards they have acquitted themselves" very profound.

For some reason, after Rimmer made his speech to justify his existence, you almost had to feel sorry for him. I repeat, almost.

BEN WALKER

I've got a great arse! For this line alone this is a brilliant episode.

Not the greatest episode - but which one is? - but one I can happily watch over and over again without tiring of.

"Give you five? I can do better than that - I can give you fifteen!"

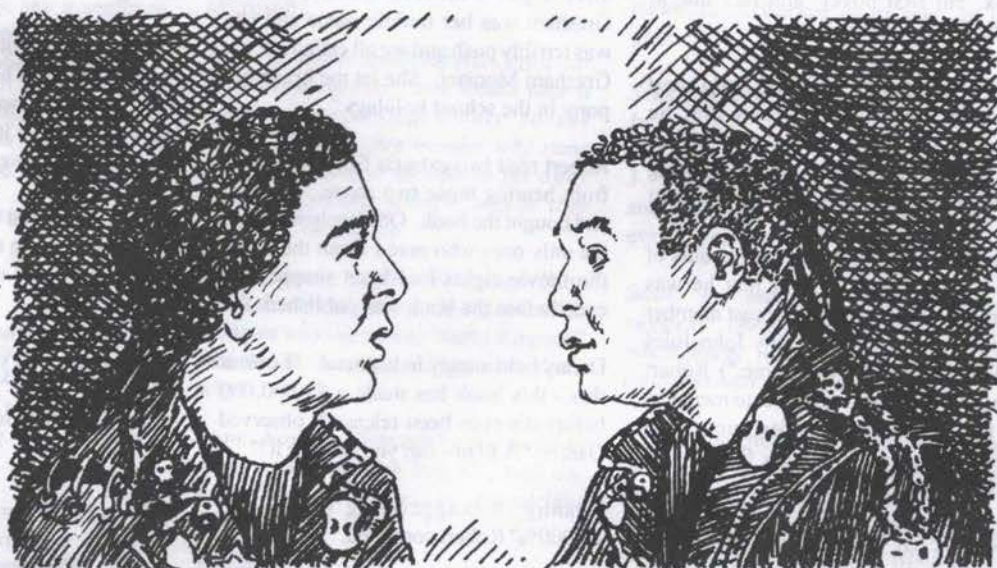
Brilliant.

SARAH JANE

I really enjoy this episode. It's not my favourite, it just hovers there in the mass of 'great episodes'.

"I give joy to the world because I've got a beautiful arse" is one of my favourite lines ever from *Red Dwarf*.

Damn, I'm going to have to go and watch it now!



© P. BARKER FOR '97

COLIN EMMS

For me, *The Inquisitor* had a religious theme. Don't get me wrong, I'm not a choir singer and trying to convert you. The Inquisitor always appeared for the first time in a blinding white light just like an angel - but without the wings and the harp. Just a glove that can do anything (ahem!) The Inquisitor plays God enforcing Judgement Day on top of a layer of clouds - or a load of smoke the special effects team have added to the scene.

How can anyone be judged by themselves? I know I can't - I'd be eliminated quicker than Bill Clinton. Ironically Lister and Kryten, having been judged useless, make a worthwhile contribution to humanity by destroying the Inquisitor. The only judge is God.

Some excellent jokes in this ep. "Today's been a bit of a bummer" - aren't all *RD* days a bummer? But in the *RD* spirit the posse always find a way out of trouble coming up with truly award winning escape plans.

What an episode.

JILL BUCKLEY

A brill ep, from my favourite series - V. There are many witty scenes and dialogue that stood out for me. It starts with Lister's Helen of Troy theory which must have crossed someone's mind too. Beware of Trojans, they're complete Smegheads.

The corridor scenes with the Inquisitor always reminds of the *Smeg Ups* video, marvellous! The Cat's obvious vanity shows strong again when being judged by himself and his beautiful arse. Rimmer's trans-am wheel arch nostrils and his sad experience with Fiona Barrington. Lister's actually beginning to realise that he's not thick and can use his brains to effect an escape plan, even though Kryten was disgusted about the hand.

A great half hour's viewing with Rob and Doug's imagination at full power using all four *Red Dwarf* characters to their best. Give me fifteen!

Next issue:

Meltdown

send us your views

ROBERT LLEWELLN LAUNCHES HIS LATEST BOOK *THE MAN ON PLATFORM 5*

Waterstones in Islington is the setting for Robert Llewellyn's latest book launch.

The Man On Platform 5 is Robert's fifth book, but first novel and he's due at Waterstones - and he's late!

Why is he late? He's filming *Red Dwarf* down a sewer - more than that he wouldn't say. So there's your first bit of **hard Red Dwarf** gossip - sewers are going to be involved! Quick onto the internet!

Robert brought with him the remains of his Kryten mask as proof that he was working along with another cast member to back up his story - Danny John-Jules ("Well it was on the way home.") Robert handed the Kryten mask over to members of the fan club team for auction at *Dimension Jump* - the very first Kryten mask from series VIII.

The book has been called a *Pygmalion* for the nineties. (*For those of you who don't know Pygmalion is a play written by George Bernard Shaw about a bet between two men that they can take a cockney girl and pass her off as aristocracy. You may be more familiar with My Fair Lady - which is the musical version of the play.*)

"I've had the idea for writing this book for years and years. When I was in The Joeks I wrote a song called *Pig Male Ian* about the same thing. Getting around to writing the book has taken a lot longer.

The basic premise of the book is that two half-sisters (Eupheme and Gresham) are on a railway station and see a trainspotter/anorak/general anally retentive bore on an opposite platform. Eupheme and Gresham make a wager. Eupheme will turn this "naff, computer nerd into a suave, fashionable, interesting, attractive, contemporary man." A man even her fussy sister could fancy.

But Eupheme has a very tough job. He knows train timetables off by heart, he can't stop himself from asking for celebrities' autographs (however minor) and he still lives with his mum!

So where did the names of Eupheme and Gresham come from? "Eupheme is the name of my mum's friend - well she's called Euphemia and Gresham is named after a girl I fancied when I was 14. Gresham was her middle name and she was terribly posh and we all called her the Gresham Monster. She let me brush her pony in the school holidays."

Robert read two extracts from the book - from hearing those two alone, we went and bought the book. Obviously we're not the only ones who raved about the book, the movie rights had been snapped up even before the book was published.

Danny held a copy in his hand. "Look at this - this book has made a £1,000,000 before it's even been released" observed Danny "A £1m - can you believe it?"

"Danny is exaggerating by at least 10,000%" Robert corrected.

"Yeah and they want first refusal on his next book - can you believe it, not one word's written yet - and they want first refusal." Danny's big book of showbiz facts obviously getting bigger by the day now.

An old retired actor came to watch the proceedings. This had nothing to do with the free alcohol we're sure! As Robert apologised for being late to the audience "due to filming" the actor's ears pricked up.

"Are you an actor?"

"Yes"

"What are you in? Is it something I should know?"

"Um - *Red Dwarf*, Friday Nights 9.30, BBC2" Robert replied. "He's in it too" pointing to Danny.

"Ahhh yes" the man nodded contentedly.

By now there was quite a queue for everybody to get their books signed, so the 'actor decided to visit a kindred spirit - Danny.

"Do you know I've only ever made two mistakes" he said.

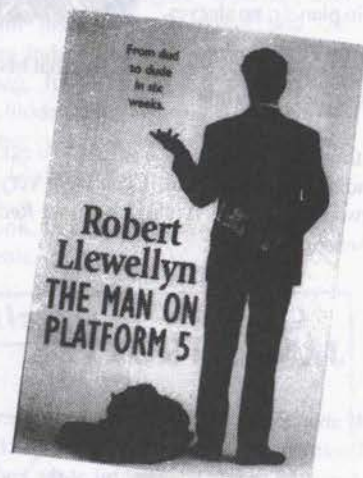
"Two wines was it?" enquired Danny smiling.

The man then proceeded to name drop people none of us had ever heard, staring at our shoes had become very fashionable "and do you know it was Peggy Ashcroft" At last someone we all knew!

Danny told us that he was really looking forward to coming up to Liverpool for the convention.

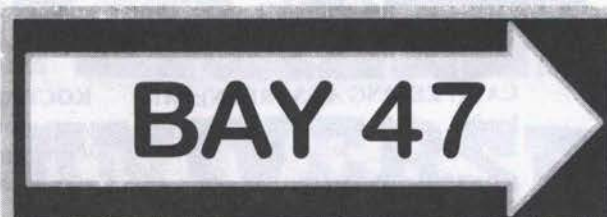
"Liverpool?" our new friend piped up. "I was there for two years in *Sleuth*!"

It really was time to go.



The Man On Platform 5, published by Hodder and Stoughton, priced at £12.99, is in the shops now.

Have you read this book? Send us your opinions on it - reviews next issue.



1. People with mobile phones who constantly have them turned off!!! Do you know how irritating this is?

Sean: Yes! I once bought Bev a mobile to take with her wherever she should wonder. She never took it so I couldn't get hold of her. She also has an answer machine, but she never listens to the messages. In they go.

2. People who cannot say a sentence without saying 'Do you know what I mean' - do you know what I mean?

Sean: Hmm yes irritating, but I guess they're only checking you're still listening to their inane drivelling, in they go.

3. Usually the same people who start all their sentences with 'I'm not being funny but' and then insult you. I'm not being funny but why?

Sean: I have a habit of saying that. I am never about to tell a joke or attempt to amuse anyone, I intend to insult and be just a little patronising. I'm not being funny, but they stay out.

4. American people helping fund the IRA and then moan about terrorism when it happens to them. How would they like it if the people of Ulster all started sending money to Moslem fundamentalists?

Sean: Yes I've thought that these people where just a little hypocritical. Maybe when they give the land they stole from the native Americans back.....I'll say no more, in they go.

5. Contestants on game shows/quiz shows that applaud themselves. Why?

Sean: Saves us doing it. They stay out.

6. Media type people who write huge articles about how British people should really start getting over the death of Princess Diana - when in reality most of us are trying to get on with our lives - it's them that are constantly bringing it up - she's still in the papers a year later. I'm not anti-Diana - just let the poor woman rest in peace.

Sean: They basically poo-ed themselves when she tragically died, in one fell swoop they lost their story bases. They panicked, they had nothing they could write about anymore. Now they may have to write about something that their readers may actually want to know about. So what did they do? - they just carried on.

STEVE MYTHEN

1. Buying the latest top-of-the-range bit of technology thinking you've done really well for yourself and then spending the rest of your life buying expensive upgrades for it. Do I smell a rat here Microsoft?

Sean: If it were anything else, say a car or a video recorder, you would take it back complaining loudly to the management. I often wonder why some companies seem to be able to get away with such shoddy service...maybe they shouldn't. In they go.

2. The Queen Mother. I hate her. Why hasn't she treated that Parker Bowels witch the same way she treated Wallis Simpson? Because she's a smeggin' hypocrite that's why!

Sean: Now, now you can't put a member of the royal family in Bay 47....well not unless you put the rest in...Oh alright then.

3. British peanut butter. American peanut butter is the business, so why can't we have it over here? Once you've tasted it you can never go back to the British gunk.

Sean: Its amazing that US products are second rate compared to British....just look at their TV and films - and yet their peanut butter is sooo good.

4. America. This planet is in serious trouble because of global warming etc - most of the world has agreed on 'green' measures apart from - you've guessed it - America, because (now wait for this) it will upset their economy! Their economy? Poor them. I'm sure all our hearts are bleeding.

Sean: To be fair it's not only America, but the rest of the world are scared of them and are a bit too bum lick.

5. Little bits of lego left lying around on the floor. The worst pain known to man.

Sean: Oh yes, as a long suffering Dad I take great pleasure in sending them in.

6. Old people driving in cars. AAAAAGGH!!!!!!!

Sean: Totally oblivious to the rest of the world, and that there is such things as a Highway code....in they drive - slowly!!

1. Italian men who say "Ahh pretty lady you look beautiful, you will have drink with me yes?" No I will not and judging by those tight trousers you'd be no use to me anyway!

Sean: They can only use one hand as the other is constantly cupping themselves, and that's supposed to be sexy? in they go.

2. Hold music on telephones. This is meant to encourage us to keep on the phone?

Sean: Hate It. My company's is the pits. In it goes.

3. Bar staff that ask you if you want ice and lemon in your drink - you still get it even if you say no!

Sean: For them to get it right would suggest they had an ounce of intelligence. You can't send these poor creatures into the depths of Bay 47.

4. Grandparents that just don't realise that you're not 8 anymore. It's lovely that they think of me, but a bag of sweets and a couple of quid 'because I didn't know what comic you liked' is abit rich when you're 20.

Sean: All granparents are great and fab I couldn't possibly send them to Bay 47.

5. Boyfriends who dump you just before your birthday and then ask you out a week later.

Sean: Help we've been rumbled lads. In they go.

6. Church bells on a Sunday morning. Why? Do church-goers not own clocks or watches?

Sean: There is a church behind my house. One night I'm going in and cutting the ropes. They're too bloody noisy for Bay 47.

Send in your pet hates, the things that drive you mad. Stropsey Sean will then decide whether these things should go into Bay 47.

CHILDREN IN NEED

CHILDREN IN NEED STUDIO

TERRY: Now, you may think Children in Need is just a national event, but Pudsey's fame extends far and wide - way beyond Britain, way beyond Europe, way beyond even White City! In fact, they've even heard of us 3 million years out into deep space... and if you don't believe me, tune your visual receptors to this...

BLUE MIDGET

EVERYONE AT THEIR STATIONS, INCLUDING THE TWO SKUTTERS

LISTER: Where are we, Hol?

HOLLY: We're in a space ship, Dave.

LISTER: You've got no idea of our position, have you?

HOLLY: Yes I have. You're hunched up over that console.

RIMMER: Holly - all you've got to do is tell us our position if you can't do that, perhaps its time we replaced you with a machine that's a tad more sophisticated.

HOLLY: Are you threatening to replace me with a pencil sharpener? After all the years of service I've given you. Charming. I was distracted, that's all. I've found these 3 million year old broadcasts from Earth.

KOCHANSKI: Put it on the monitor, Hol.

MONITOR - FOOTAGE FROM CHILDREN IN NEED APPEARS

LISTER: Look at that! A roomful of people all watching a man on a sofa.

CAT: You think they've come to see the man or the sofa?

LISTER: I know what this is! It's one of those fund-raising programmes! People used to phone in with their credit card numbers.

RIMMER (PEERS AT TERRY): They gave HIM their credit card numbers? I wouldn't trust him with my name, rank and serial number.

LISTER: They were great shows. Raised a lot of money for good causes. There was a word for them - telethons.

KOCHANSKI: So who's that?

LISTER: Well, that... that's Tel. The geezer they named the Telethons after.

CAT (PEERING AT SCREEN): What him?

KRYTEN: Yes sir. He straddled the planetary media like a colossus.

RIMMER (PEERING): What - him?

KRYTEN: Yes. Finally winning an Oscar for his moving portrayal of the doomed penniless young artist in the film Titanic.

ALL: What - HIM?

KRYTEN: Er.... My movie database is slightly corrupted. There may be a tiny margin for error on a couple of those details.

LISTER (STILL WATCHING) Look at the size of that cheque! People must have been really short sighted in the 20th Century.

CAT: So how'd they raise all this money stuff anyway?

KRYTEN: Frequently by staging wacky, sponsored events sir. Like sitting in a bath filled with baked beans.

KOCHANSKI: Ugh!

LISTER: Yeah. A bath! Yuk!

KOCHANSKI: It makes you think, though doesn't it? We don't do enough for charity.

LISTER: Kris has got a point. We should do more society.

RIMMER: A theory that falls down on one tiny detail; we ARE society! Besides, charity begins at home and we don't have one. Until we do, I recommend we all behave like complete bastards!

KOCHANSKI: No! We've got to help. A) because it's a good cause and B) because I really like that teddy.

LISTER: You and a teddy - my idea of heaven.

KOCHANSKI: It's not that kind of teddy.

LISTER: Coh.

KRYTEN: How can we help them, ma'am? We have no Earth money.

KOCHANSKI: But we've got 3 million years worth of hindsight to share! We can warn them that if they don't start looking after each other.... they're through!

CAT: You mean; 'give us your money or your planet gets it'?

KOCHANSKI: We won't put it quite like that. Kryten..

KRYTEN: Hooking our transmitter to time drive now...

RIMMER: Kryten do you seriously think people in the 20th century will actually watch a crude UHF signal from a bunch of Do It Yourself broadcasters?

KRYTEN: Yes sir. It's called Channel 5.

KOCHANSKI: Preparing to transmit...

LISTER (PRESSES BUTTON) Transmit

GROUP SHOT, THEY STARE INTO CAMERA.

RIMMER: Hello people of the 20th century. This is the crew of the JMC mining ship Red Dwarf speaking to you from 3 million years in your future. Mankind is doomed, humanity's days are numbered and extinction looms...

LISTER: But how are you in yourselves?

KOCHANSKI: Look, take no notice of them. Just phone that number (BOB WAVES PLACARD WITH NO. ON) donate some money and ... could you send me one of those bears>

CAT: And some hair gel!

KOCHANSKI: Thanks!

CUT TO A DIFFERENT SHOT.

KRYTEN: End transmission.

LISTER: Fantastic! We've made a difference. See Rimmer? It's good when you can help people.

RIMMER: You're absolutely right. In future I'll do everything I can to reduce suffering and improve the lot of mankind.

HE GETS UP.

LISTER: Where are you going?

RIMMER: To smash your guitar.

PARALLEL UNIVERSE

BEN WALKER

Lister: Richard Ashcroft from The Verve. Scruffy, obvious curry eater and - well what more do you need?

Rimmer: Tony Blair - so slimey, so weasley, so lacking in backbone, so Yes-sir-Bill Clinton-sir-anything-you-say-sir.

Cat: Bill Clinton - now here's someone who loves himself and shags women and who has the brain the size of a pea. A difficult role to fill - but Bill does it so well.

Kryten: Johnny Vaughan - because he's a mine of useless information - he knows everything.

Kochanski: Denise Van Outen - Phwoaarrr!!! She'd look great in tight PVC and I really don't think any more justification is needed.

Holly: Phil Gale off the *Big Breakfast* - he's used to appearing on a small tv screen. Oh dear do you think that I watch this programme too much?

JUSTINE JAMES

Lister: Jarvis Cocker. he sings just as badly as Lister.

Rimmer: Eddy Temple Morris, he is really annoying and I'd like to see his hologram switched off!

Cat: Michael Hurst, really good looking guy as any fan of Channel 5's Hercules can tell you. His wardrobe could be tight clothes and vest tops in every colour of the rainbow.

Kryten: Tommy Lee Jones, instead of him blowing his head up when Lister wants ketchup on his lobster, Kryten would grab a mega big gun and try to blow Lister's head off.

Kochanski: Ace from *Dr Who*. No way would Lister mess with her, he'd get a nitro 9 can in his curry! She could nick Cat's clothes when he's not looking and could have great fun trying to blow up the polymorph.

Holly: Ainsley Harriott, so he could get his own back for what they did to him on *CSWS*.

Send in your alternative cast for Red Dwarf to: 40 Pitford Rd, Woodley, Reading, Berks RG5 4QF. Or E-Mail us at coups@mcmail.com

PINK SKUTTER

Lister: Paul Gascoigne, another northern, beer swilling, curry loving, prankster type. Perfect!

Rimmer: Bill Clinton - he is prepared to lie, cheat and grovel in the pursuit of his career. Only prob is, unlike Rimmer, he's a success with women.

Cat: Richard Branson - there's nothing he likes to promote more than himself!

Kryten: Alan Hansen who has similar complexion, poor bloke!

Kochanski: Julian Clary - can you think of anyone who'd rather wear a tight red PVC suit?

Holly: The Labour government, who like Holly have moments of brilliance, interspersed with long periods of disorientation, bumbling insanity and a hint of incompetence.

NAOMI EVANS

Lister: Liam Gallagher, scruffy, infact more Lister than Lister really.

Rimmer: Jeremy Paxman - no explanation needed!

Cat: Prince - or the artist formerly known as - spooky or what?

Kryten: Metal Mickey - because he was fabulous!

Kochanski: Philippa Forrester, brains and beauty - wahey!!!

Holly: Darth Vader, just so every day could be a *Queeg* day on board Red Dwarf.

MICHAEL RAVEN

Lister: Robert Llewellyn - everything I've seen him in outside *RD* puts him to the top of my list, especially in the *Smeg Outs* vids when he does an impression of Craig on a horse!

Rimmer: I really hate to say this, but it's got to be myself. Okay, I'm not as tidy, but I play computer Risk.

Kryten: Sergeant Bash out of Robot Wars - a chainsaw for cutting Lister's socks in half and a flame-thrower to finish the space weevil a la petrol bomb off!

Cat: Harry from Third Rock From The Sun - he lives in his own world too.

Kochanski: Dax from Star Trek - do I really need to say more?

Holly: Jasper Carrott - because he's almost identical to Norman Lovett

MC SPACE WEEVIL

Lister: Dipsy Teletubby - large makes about as much sense as a scouser and should Albert, the mould ever grow, they'd be the perfect couple!

Rimmer: Gillian Anderson (Scully) I can't think of anyone else I'd rather see in their underwear whilst chained to a pillar!

Cat: Bugs Bunny - pure coolness with big teeth!

Kryten: Greg Rusedski - "I serve therefore I am!"

Kochanski: Carol Vorderman - the thinking mans' totty!

Holly: Peter Mandelson - No-one else could launch something that odd looking!

Send your nominations for an alternative *Red Dwarf* cast to 40 Pitford Rd, Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4QF

MAROONED

You're marooned on a space island. What 8 episodes would you take with you? You are also allowed one luxury item, a piece of music and a book (all Red Dwarf related - please note!) It's that simple.

MICHAEL 'TROGG' GOOD

Quarantine: This is the only episode that features all the main cast and Mr Flibble. It's also the only episode in which Cat wears anything that vaguely suits him. What do you mean, be serious? This is a comedy we're talking about. Oh OK Quarantine is one of the episodes that not just works well, but works magnificently with the character interaction and varying motivations (satisfied?)

White Hole: An episode which I know has it rough spots, but it still contains some classic lines "I'm fine thank you Susan", "What is it?" etc - as well as commemorating the first thing I had printed in BTL (Featured Episode!)

Queeg: This is a defining episode for Norman's Holly - as well as being very funny. The way the plot is crafted and keeps the audience in suspense is good - even when you know what's going to happen - another of the magnificent episodes in my book.

Holoship: Has to be there, even if it's just for Rimmer's line "We won't be apart, we just won't be together. I can't believe I just said that!" I've chosen a show in which Rimmer shines. Still this is the only episode in which Rimmer does anything even approaching noble so it's a good choice for novelty value alone.

The Last Day: I my Kryten episode. I shouldn't have to justify this one, but I would like to know where the policewoman's hat came from. All right, I know I have to, it's silicone heaven. I told my computer that silicon heaven does exist - and now it lets me play DOOM - OK?

Blue: I'd sit on my little island and just watch the snog, over and over again. Not because I'm weird (well, yes because I'm weird, but not that weird) but to remind me that things could be worse than being stuck on an island all alone - Rimmer could be there as well.

Epideme & Nanarchy: Because it looks like that's the only way I'm going to get to see them anytime soon. The only reason is so that I can see them and then I've seen everything.

For the book, my signed Son of Soup (thank you Caroline) just so I know it's safe. The piece of music has to be Tongue Tied and the luxury item would bemy shiny thing with a piece of string.

ASHLEY BAYLISS

Holoship: A truly classic episode that shows Rimmer does have a nice side. Ahh, bless him!

Tikka To Ride: Not only was it the first RD for 3 years but also Kryten's reaction when they find out they're in the Texas Book Depository is ball bouncingly funny!

Gunmen of the Apocalypse: How can anyone not like this episode? The acting, the jokes, the special effects. Top Class.

Justice: Lister's head popping and Rimmer's slide show are brill. Also the scene where the escort boots are leading off. Absolute quality!

Legion: Space Crops Directive 34124 about false teeth, oral sex and zero gravity is one of the best gas throughout RD's history. A knighthood for whoever thought that one up!

Ouroboros: The truth behind Lister and the entrance of Koochanski - what a babe!

Marooned: The dog food, having sex at 12, Alexander the Great's Chief Eunach. An unlikely combination but a truly winning one.

The Inquisitor: The classic "Oh smeg indeed matey" line, Lister's "spin on it" Cat's "great ass" and Kryten's to and froing through time. Excellent.

The book has to be *The Red Dwarf Omnibus* doesn't it? Music, since I can't take the Beatles with me, I think the opening titles theme tune has to come with me - series 3 to 7.

My luxury item would be a 3D working model of Chloe Annett with complete in and out bits. What a babe!

AILEEN McKERR

Future Echoes: The hilarity of the double scene would be enough to keep me sane for years.

Marooned: Finally someone worse off than me. At least I'd be on a lovely warm desert island and not a frozen ice planet like Rimsey and Listy. This episode has to be included to make my situation look a little less bleak.

Queeg: Ingenious. An April, May, June, July and August fool I could never have predicted.

Out of Time: This is a wonderful episode that has me glued to the screen every time I watch it, afraid to blink in case I miss a bit. I'd be space crazy not to bring it with me.

The Last Day: The first episode I ever taped because I thought there'd be no more. Must be kept for prrosterity. That and the fact I think it's a brilliant episode.

Back to Reality: I have just two words to say about this episode that sums up it's brilliance. "Duane Dibbley."

Bodyswap: JOZXYQK. Marvellous.

Gunmen of the Apocalypse. Cat's trick gunshot will always be my favourite scene. How could I leave it behind?

Book: Infinity Welcomes Careful Drivers - I've read it so many times that it's looking a bit worn and tattered, but it's good for another couple of thousand reads.

Music: Gunmen theme tune. This is the perfect tune to hum when you've got a song whizzing around your head that you can't stand.

Luxy item: A pair of Smart Shoes. Who knoes, maybe I'd fall asleep wearing them and wake up next morning back in civilisation. Even if I ended up in Burmah, at least I wouldn't be marooned anymore.

Send your entries for *Marooned* to the usual fan club address: 40 Pitford Rd, Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4QF

COULD IT REALLY HAPPEN?

By Wilhemina Shaghappy

"Doug Naylor? Nope never heard of him gentlemen. Was he a president or something like that?" Rimmer said hoping that he was right. He hadn't been able to answer a single question the two men sitting opposite him had asked. "Psst, Kryten check your data banks for this Doug Taylor chap."

"Begging your pardon sir, but surely that's cheating and under these conditions we couldn't possibly use unscrupulous methods." replied Kryten in a trying-to-whisper-type way.

"What conditions would these be?" asked one of the men.

"To be a contestant on one of those new game shows?" replied Rimmer and Kryten replied hopefully in unison.

"This is not going well at all." the taller of the two men said to the other. "I can't believe this is happening - to us of all people."

The other man shook his head in disbelief. "The rest of your crew can come back in the room now" he informed Kryten. Turning back to his partner he let out a huge sigh and slowly shook his head. "If interviewing them all together doesn't work I don't know what to do."

"The psychologists reports should be here very soon Doug - maybe they can shed some light on the matter." his friend replied.

By now the crew of Red Dwarf were all gathered in the mid-section of Starbug around the table.

Lister spoke first.

"We've failed haven't we? None of us are very good at history and trivia and stuff. We really..."

"Stop!" Doug replied "This isn't an audition for a game show."

"But we thought, with you asking us loads of questions and everything that you might want us to appear on telly or something."

"Look Craig this has got to stop - now! A joke's a joke - but this has gone on too long!"

No-one answered.

"Have none of you anything to say?" Doug tried again.

"Yeah, I got plenty bud. Where's your spacecraft? How did you get here? Why didn't you try and contact us before we found you here onboard our ship? There's three things I gotta say!" replied Cat.

"Nice one Cat" Lister slapped him on the back.

"Yes well done Cat" added Kochanski "As the most senior officer onboard Starbug I demand that you answer the Cat's questions. That's an order - we're getting fed up being treated like this."

"Okay" replied Doug. "We got here by coming in through that door over there. We got here by driving in our cars and its impossible to contact you as your radio equipment doesn't work - they're bloody props!"

"Oh, begging your pardon sirs, but I am responsible for that radio equipment I will admit that it is not top of the range equipment - but it has never let us down. It is regularly serviced by myself and Mr Rimmer here."

"Correct Kryten" Rimmer confirmed. He walked over to a desk and picked up a book from a pile on the top. "and these are the recorded services to prove it. Miss Kochanski ma'am I think you'll find that they are all present and correct."

Kochanski glanced at the book. "Yes they're fine. Our radio equipment is up and working gentlemen. Trying to challenge my crew's credibility is very low. We are a dedicated team."

"Okay, okay." the second man replied. "Let's change tact. Who am I? Does anyone recognise me?"

The crew looked at him and all slowly shook their heads.

"My name is Ed Bye, I'm the director on this show, I tell you what to do."

"I'm the senior officer here!" snapped Kochanski "what's your rank? Where are your credentials?"

"I'm a director - I don't need a rank."

"As much as I'd love for somebody to put Miss Kochanski in her place I really do have to agree with her here. You're hardly officer material are you - you're too tall for a start - you'd never get through the doors properly." Rimmer replied very pleased with himself that he had something important to say.

"Alright then - where do you sleep at night then? Doug threw the answer to Cat.

"I ain't telling you! I've never divulged my special places to nobody. Somethings are private you know!" Cat snapped back.

"So why are there cameras here - all pointed at various parts of Starbug?"

"Fly-on-the-wall documentary. They're very popular apparently." Lister answered.

"And how long have these cameras been following you?"

"Oooh what do you reckon guys" Lister looked at the others.

"They were here before me" Kochanski offered.

"Yes, they were definitely in place when I came on board Mr Lister sir" Kryten replied.

"This is irrelevant - these cameras have been aimed at us for a long time - you forget they're there after a while. Sometimes the red light comes on and you get filmed and sometimes it doesn't. Simple really."

"Kryten where do you sleep at night?"

"Oh sir, I don't sleep for I am a mechanoid I have down-time which is a close proximation of human sleep. I recharge my batteries so to speak."

"Alright then, change your heads. Put spare head 2 on."

The crew gasped as one.

"Begging your pardon sir, but for a mechanoid to change heads in front of a human is a grave dereliction of duty. It clearly states in Space Corps directive 193..."

"I wrote the bloody Space Corps Directives you morons - there's only about a dozen of them at most - I made them up. They were a joke, mainly at Rimmer's expense."

"There you see - I told you someone at the Space Corps had it in for me. Didn't I tell you? Didn't I?"

"As much as I understand totally why you would want to belittle Rimmer. I've often thought they were a joke myself - but are you seriously telling me that you are responsible for the entire 2,500 Space Corps Directives?"

"Yes"

"Rubbish" cried Kochanski
"There's no way one man on his own was ever responsible for the Space Corps Directives - there were committees, conferences, projects. My grandfather was the head of one of the committees I should know."

"Your grandfather? But I've never written about your grandfather. Nothing is known about him." pleaded Doug.

"Well we know plenty bud. She never shuts up about him. He was the head of this, the inspiration for that, the first person to do anything really. God I hate him." sneered Cat.

"He was a great man. An inspirational man, he was my grandfather and he bought me my first pony Bessie."

"Trumper" corrected Doug.

"I beg your pardon?" queried Kochanski.

"Your pony was called Trumper." explained Doug "Series VII, episode 4, *Duct Soup*."

"Trumper was her second pony mate" corrected Lister. "I can't believe my mouth is actually going to utter these words but..."

"Don't say it!" snapped Cat.

"No, please no!" pleaded Rimmer

"I've got to guys, c'mon." Lister tried to justify his actions.

"Okay but we're not listening to the commentary - agreed!" Rimmer checked with the others.

"Agreed" replied Kryten and Cat.

"As I was saying - she's got this to back up her story." Lister produced a small photo album from one of his many pockets.

"You beast - I knew it was you who'd taken it." screamed Kochanski. She held the photo album to her chest. "I've missed this so much"



She then opened the book at the first page. "Now look here's me aged four on Bessie, look at me there don't I look lovely? But look at Bessie in this one - doesn't she look divine? Now then, turning the page, we have me brushing Bessie and she has a new bridle - which if we turn back to the previous page you can see is much better for her and the colouring really does match her mane a lot better than the first one. In this photo here right in the corner you can actually see my grandfather's left leg. Unfortunately my grandmother took the photo and she never was any good at that type of thing. Now obviously I don't want to be a bore here but..."

The rest of the Red Dwarf crew moaned. They knew they were in for at least an hour's reminiscing from Kochanski about Bessie and then Trumper without touching Kochanski's outfits she had worn whilst riding the two ponies.

".... and so I really did try my hardest and do you know what - we won. I was so

excited I just didn't know what to do with myself. But if we turn the page here we can see..."

"Thank you!" snapped Ed Bye in a way that actually shut Kochanski up. "We believe you. Now please could you just put the book away?"

Kochanski placed her photo album in a drawer and was silent. Her lower lip started to tremble - but she was determined not to cry in front of these two strange men.

"Nice one bud" cheered Cat "We've been waiting years for that to happen! Hey can't they become part of our crew? I mean they obviously haven't got a craft of their own - and we could do with some extra hands."

"I don't know" replied Rimmer "I'm still a bit suspicious about them. We know nothing about them." Then a thought struck him. "Aliens! Are you aliens? If so, I, er, we, er... What actually is our position regarding aliens?"

"There are no aliens Rimmer I thought I'd convinced you of that" moaned Lister.

Ed and Doug sat there. By now they had spent four hours with the crew and hadn't got any sense out of them. Ed showed Doug a couple of boxes.

"We could always try these." he offered.

"I can't think of anything better."

"Can I draw your attention lady and gentlemen to..."

"and droids" corrected Kochanski.

"and droids - to these. What do you say to these." Ed showed the crew of Red Dwarf the two boxes.

"There old-style video covers - late 20th century, they were soon replaced luckily by digital discs, which of course were in turn replaced by..." Kryten offered.

"I don't think they wanted a history of them Kryten" smiled Lister. He turned back to the men. "They're video tapes of Red Dwarf. What about them?"

"Well precisely - video tapes of *Red Dwarf* - the TV programme you lot star in."

"Oh I don't know if I'd go so far as 'star in'" gushed Rimmer with false modesty. "But do you really think we're good? It's so lovely to know that people enjoy watching it. We were a bit cautious at first with this fly-on-the-wall thing, but they've done them on so many people now, we just thought we'd go ahead with it any. You know I really think that people out there sympathise with my situation."

"What situation?" snapped Doug - he'd had enough now. "You're a bloody actor called Chris Barrie!"

"Don't fall for it Rimmer" ordered Lister.

"Mr Rimmer sir, is this your mind again? Have you recreated these men? Are we on a psi-moon after all? There was no sign of it on the printouts earlier and I always double check now." Kryten was getting frantic.

"*The Brittas Empire* - you play Gordan Brittas - you're the manager of a leisure centre. Here's a photo to prove it!" Ed threw the photo onto the table.

The crew laughed.

"Have you never seen *Androids - The Next Generation*?" laughed Kochanski. "They can make them look like anyone now. What was that one we saw the other day that looked a bit like me - only with a bigger bottom?"

"*Time Unraveller*?" Rimmer suggested.

"That was the one" Kochanski clapped her hands together. "The girl in it did look uncannily like me. Don't you two watch any telly?"

Doug's forehead hit the table. This was not a good day. Making *Red Dwarf* had always been a difficult process - but never this bad. He slowly raised his head off the table.

"Are you a 21st, a 22nd or 23rd century guy Lister? As according to all the videos you're all three."

"I was born in XXXX but I've been in Stasis for centuries at a time so I'm any century guy I want to be."

"You've had your appendix out twice - you were only born with one."

"Not true - I've got two scars. I'm the only person in history to be born with two useless organs!"

"And it doesn't stop with those two either" muttered Kochanski.

"How come the time drive turned into a space drive with no explanation?" demanded Doug. He turned to Ed "If they give a plausible answer we'll include it in the next series."

"Have you ever heard of upgrades?" sneered Kochanski. "I think you'll find that the machine in question was indeed a time drive before I got here. It could go anywhere in time but it didn't actually move. By the time I came on board all the upgrades had been fitted and it became your standard space drive. I'm sorry, but I really don't think I can make it any simpler."

"Yeah bud, even I understood it" laughed Cat.

"In fact" added Lister "Cat even put the upgrades in - that's how easy it was."

"It really is standard procedure" added Kryten. "At the time when we used the time drive technology was only at the stage where it could move in time."

"Also the thing you have to realise is that not all our life is filmed. We do get the odd time off. It's not our fault the video makers don't include all our life on the videos. If they haven't included that bit it's not our fault. We're not taking the flack for it."

"Here here" chimed Rimmer.

"Well said Lister - although my Dave would never have let the time drive get into that state of disrepair." commented Kochanski.

"Kryten - how come your name is Kryten 2X4B when in *Beyond a Joke* you clearly state that your name is Kryten 2X4C?!" Doug was now beyond help.

"Oh sirs I'm almost blushing, my interior fluid is surging to my pouches on the side of my face." Kryten shook his head in shame. "Should I terminate my life now Mr Lister sir?"

"No Kryten, we've been through all that. The counselling, remember the counselling. You're a good mechanoid, a trusted friend and a valued member of the crew. Keep saying it!" Lister calmly told Kryten.

"I'm a good..... mechanoid, a tttttrusted friend, a valued mmmmember of thecrew." wept Kryten.

"Well done Kryten!" Kochanski threw her arms round the mechanoid.

"Kryten was having a few problems back then" Lister whispered to Doug and Ed. "It was a bad time. We try not to talk about it. Closed book sort of stuff."

"Right - okay" Doug whispered back sympathetically. He then realised what he'd done. His forehead hit the table once more.

"Lister why did you start off playing an acoustic guitar which then turned into a bass and is now an electric guitar?"

"I'd rather not answer that." replied Lister quietly.

The rest of the crew were very interested by this last question.

"No Listy answer the man" urged Rimmer.

"I...well, you see. I've got one guitar that's hidden and I've got a bass guitar too incase you guys find the guitar."

"So that guitar I smashed wasn't your only guitar?" Cat realised.

"No I had another one. But I only play it when you lot aren't around." replied Lister. "But while we're on the subject - I thought my guitar was damaged in that crash!"

"Conventions!" shouted Ed changing the subject. "You all have attended *Red Dwarf* conventions."

"What on earth are you on about?" Kochanski demanded - she was getting very irritated by these two very demanding men.

"Watch this!" Ed slammed a video into one of the video players. "These are tapes of all of you at *Red Dwarf* conventions."

The crew watched the tape enthralled.

"Look - there's me!" shrieked Cat. "Don't I look a mess! Why did no-one stop me wearing that outfit? Those clothes are far too baggy."

"Look how I hold the audience's attention - they're hanging on my every word." Rimmer was mesmerised.

"I really don't think I drank that much lager" commented Kochanski - a tad embarrassed.

"Who's the smeghead in the suit?" demanded Lister.

"More important sir - who's that ugly bloke?" Kryten was crestfallen.

The tape finished.

"Can anyone tell me what we've just watched?" asked Doug realising he was now sounding more and more like a primary school teacher.

Rimmer provided the answer. "One of the annual Jupiter Mining Corporation seminars. They're very popular - very good for recruitment. All the best members of staff get to talk to prospective new recruits. It still beats me why anyone would want to listen to Lister though. Who is he going to inspire to join up?"

"Can I ask you two a question?" Lister butted in.

"By all means"

"You seem to know an awful lot about us - how come?"

Kochanski gasped. "Ohhhh you don't think they're obsessed fans do you? I've heard about them."

"Well they do seem to know far too much about us Miss Kochanski ma'am - or they could be spies."

Rimmer was still on a high from watching himself on the video.

"Are you stalkers? Of course officially I don't approve, but strictly off the record as long as you're both prepared to play risk occasionally I'm game if you are."

"No, no, no" Ed tried for what seemed like the millionth time to get through to them. "You are all actors on a British sit-com. This is not real life, it's all pretend...."

He was interrupted by Helen Norman bringing in the psychologist's report.

"How did she get in?" Kochanski barked

"I came in round the back" replied Helen "There's a hole in the.."

"A stasis leak" chorused the crew.

"I'm getting there first" Rimmer pushed Lister out the way. Cat pulled Kochanski's hair and ran in front of her. Kryten

headbutted Rimmer - anything to get to the leak first.

Doug and Ed looked at the five characters running out of sight searching for a stasis leak - which in reality was a ripped curtain.

Doug read through the psychologist's reports and then further information on his crew.

He stood up.

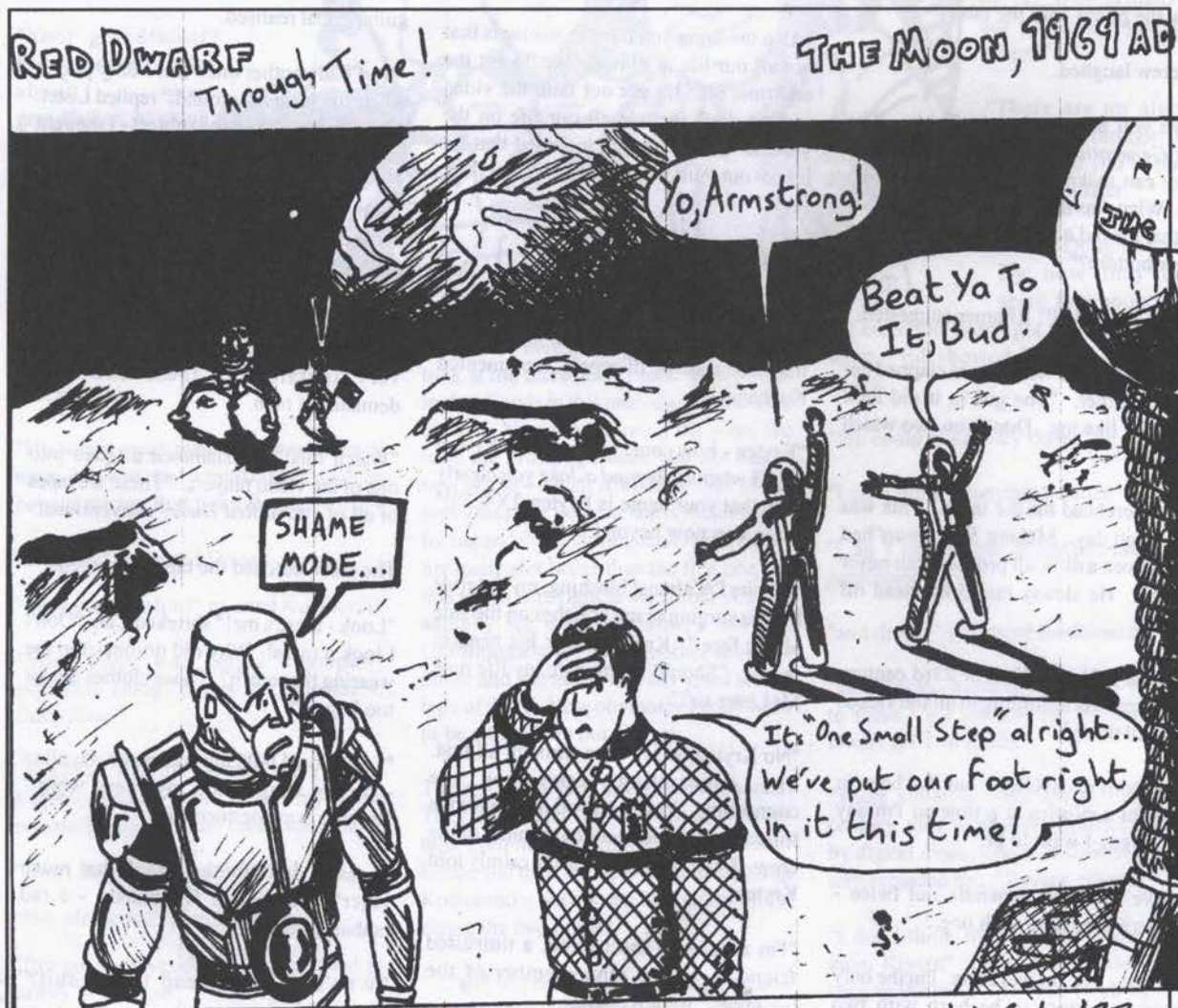
"What on earth are we going to do Doug?" Ed asked.

"Well series VIII is going ahead as usual we'll have the usual trouble with the 'actors' but we'll cope."

"How come you're so confident?"

"Well according to these reports not one of them has spent their wages for the past five years - so it looks like we *can* have that wooshy explosion in the movie after all! Do you fancy a curry?"

The End



RED DWARF ENTRANCE (PSYCHOLOGICAL) TEST

Questions set by Dr Brannigan - Ship's Psychiatrist

"I'm sure you've seen these things a thousand times before. Simply answer each multiple choice question to discover your destiny aboard Red Dwarf. Now, tell me about your mother..."

SECTION ONE: APPEARANCE

1. The ship's barber asks you how you would like your hair cut. Do you ask for:

- a. an eighth of an inch shorter than regulation as you're trying to alter the rules via the back door?
- b. a quick go-over with one of those buzzy things and watch out for the dreadlocks?
- c. the nearest exit - no way do I let some monkey near my hair?
- d. one toupee and a pair of matching eyebrows?

2. Describe your wardrobe - is it:

- a. organised alphabetically with the underpants on coathangers?
- b. a pile of old clothes at the bottom of a cupboard with a faint whiff of cheese?
- c. So long that it requires a monorail system?
- d. The storage place of three spare heads, one spare hand and a couple of nipple nut rings?

SECTION TWO: FOOD

3. What would you consider your favourite meal?

- a. Anything, as long as it is arranged horizontal, perpendicular and absolutely parallel.
- b. Enough curry to fill a spacesuit served with a four foot pile of poppadoms and the entire lager produce of Belgium.
- c. Something I can chase for a few hours first.
- d. My goodness, after all that there must be a mountain of washing up! Would you care for some help sir?

4. If trapped with your crew-mates on a derelict with only a pot noodle and a tin of dog food, what would you eat first?

- a. The pot-noodle - food with all the life drained out of it, abandoned for millennia and then reactivated in an artificial way. I know just how it feels.
- b. The dog food. Again.
- c. Lister
- d. Eat? With all that wreckage to tidy up?

SECTION THREE: RECREATION

5. You have a few hours to yourself before your next shift. What do you do?

- a. Save up a few hours more life in a stasis booth.
- b. Drink until you pass out.
- c. Is this the 'W' word again?
- d. Watch *Androids* - I think Brooke is about to suffer a near-fatal stubbed toe. Now that's drama!

6. Which Total Immersion Video Game most appeals to you?

- a. *Guaranteed Victory* - the war game for abject cowards.
- b. *Planet of the Nymphomaniacs VIII - Viagra Niagraa*.
- c. *World of Mirrors*.
- d. *Mrs Doubtfire* (the game of the movie.)

7. While under fire from hostile craft, the navicompl explodes. What is the first thing you do?

- a. Surrender and offer Lister up for sacrifice.
- b. Stop at the nearest *Happy Eater* and ask for directions.
- c. Go back to sleep! I can't believe you woke me up for this!
- d. In an attempt to placate the enemy I would offer to service their lavatories for them.

SECTION FIVE: PERSONALITIES

8. Who do you model yourself on?

- a. Napoleon Bonaparte - I think it's the "killing Belgians" thing that does it for me every time.
- b. Mr Creosote from *Monty Python's Meaning of Life* - I would have had at least a box-load of those wafer-thin mints though.
- c. Me
- d. Data in *Star Trek The Next Generation* - with all the excitement we've had around here lately, I'd like life to be boring, predictable and devoid of personality for a while.

9. Who is the greatest influence in your life?

- a. My father - without him I'd be half the man I am. I hated that stretching machine.
- b. My grandmother. She used to bite her nails and never even pulled them out of the floorboards first.
- c. I told you - me!
- d. John Warbuton. A ridiculous-looking, mother-hen-clucking buffoon. Mamet's revenge. And thank you so much for bringing that up. Sob!

10. When you are alone in bed, what do you wear?

- a. Nothing at all.
- b. A flannelette nightie
- c. A sexy black negligee.
- d. Kate Moss.

How did this questions get in here? Oh well, check your answers against the following.

Mostly A's.

You are perfectly suited to a career in Space Corps Catering and Maintenance. While you will be shunned by your co-workers, don't worry - chances are you'll die in some kind of tragic nuclear explosion anyway.

Mostly B's.

Assuming you've taken time away from the telly to read this, you should prepare yourself for the grim reality of a lonely life in uncharted space. It'll be a sad day for humanity if you become the best the species has to offer.

Mostly C's.

You are appallingly self-centred. No, that's not a compliment! Take a look in the mirror and... No, no, not yet. Come back! Bugger. Okay how about "You sure are one foxy lady. Sexy, sensual and you don't mind showing it."

Mostly D's.

What are you doing here? Haven't you got lavatories to clean? Go on, hop to it. And no getting the skutters to help you.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORY

SCRAPHEAP

I'll admit I was never a huge fan of Kryten, he was a good character but that was as far as it went for me. Still, this was a show with one of the Boys from the Dwarf in so I thought I'd give it a try. I was a bit dubious at first and no idea what to expect but by the time part 2 started, I was interested despite my earlier doubts. I soon found I was well into it and rooting for the orange team who I took a liking to. Now I'll own up and say it was an excellent show and I'm glad I gave it a chance.

It was obvious that everyone was enjoying it, especially Robert Llewellyn who seemed to be having a whale of a time. I never realised our Bobby would make such a good presenter, he really did an excellent job. He was even sneakily educational, explaining all the technical stuff very well. I now know more about transmissions, split diffs etc than I ever thought possible.

The challenges were incredible. I was totally amazed by the underwater one which I never thought the teams would be able to achieve. It was a good idea to keep the same teams for the whole series with a different expert each week; some of the team members were right character!

In all it was a thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining show. I can't wait for another series, what challenges will they come up with for that?

I lost your name - sorry!

Imagine if you will, a scrapyard full of old vehicles, railway sleepers, bicycles, even the odd disused aeroplane. Amid this scene set a tower of assorted rubbish atop of which stands our very own Mr Llewellyn (or Bob as he is mysteriously called in this programme) looking like a cross between Biggles and Mad Max. Very fetching!! This is the setting for Scrapheap, a series recently shown on Channel Four, starring Kryten minus rubber mask and two teams of four people with advanced degrees in welding, hammering and generally making machines out of other people's rubbish.

Each week the two teams were given a machine building challenge and then the results were pitted against each other, for instance, they each had to build a powerboat and then race them.

I am probably the world's least practical person, with a phobia of anything remotely connected to DIY, but Robert's clear diagrams and explanations (I think he had help) meant that even I could wrap my head around most of what was going on and ended up feeling quite clever. Didn't quite get the thing about friction in power pulling though.

All in all this was a new and exciting twist on the *Great Egg Race* - is anyone old enough to remember that? which was entertaining and informative. Robert was a great compere apart from the fact that he showed vast ignorance of Terry Pratchett, but since he is wise enough to have the same birthday as me I'll forgive him. Apart from having a member of the Red Dwarf crew in it, the other great thing about this series was that both the teams contained a more than capable female engineer. Rock on sisters! What's the problem? Oh, you're not one of those boring masculinists are you?

General summing up: Fabrooni (except for the theme music (which was scrap - ha ha)

Keren Dibbens

Another show that on paper looks like it will be a disaster; take two teams of people, give them a pile of junk and get them to make something like an all-terrain off-road buggy that actually works and will have to - in the case of the buggy - take part in a relay race, all members of the team will have to do one lap. They only have ten hours to do it all in.

Each of the two teams is made up of 3 regulars who are all mechanics or engineers, plus 1 guest team member who has specialist knowledge and skill pertaining to that week's task.

Sounds like it could be dull but it's not. It's very riveting - the two teams always work as a team together - and fascinating to watch the teams putting it all together.

The show is superbly held together by Robert Llewellyn who gives the teams their tasks and explains to us not only what's going on but with some rather nifty graphics explains the mechanics of what the teams are up to. Special mention must also go to Robert's commentary, it's full of comic asides and makes the show worth watching just for them. I hope it gets a second series.

ROBOT WARS

Ahh, so Craig Boy is back on our screens is he? Mmm, let's have a look.

Well, I've got to be honest. I really enjoyed this programme, along with the rest of my family (some of whom are confirmed *Red Dwarf*-haters.) Craig does a very good presenting job, together with Philippa Forrester, they make a great team.

Robot Wars is on at the same time as *TFI Friday* with the ginger whinger - which I hope doesn't effect the viewing figures. It's a perfect end of the week, plonk on the TV and chill out watching robots destroying each other. All very easy to take in, not much brain power involved - perfect. And two episodes of *The Simpsons* are on before it - so an hour and a half of brilliant TV to really kick your weekend off with.

Actually to be honest, I'm just in love with Craig's leather jacket. I hope he wears it all series!

S.G

Robot Wars is either Anorak City or Leather Town Cool. It features probably some of the dullest people around playing with their electronic toys. But on the other hand it also has Mr Cool in Craig Charles, the glamorous Philippa Forrester and some robot munching.

Craig presides over the proceedings in his usual enthusiastic way. Philippa has the unenviable task of talking to the competitors although thankfully we're never really introduced to them.

But probably the best bit of the show is the fact that these robots can be seriously damaged by either the shows gladiator type robots or by each other. To see the disappointment on the competitors faces as their precious robot is over turned or maliciously mauled by another robot is incredibly funny.

If you missed this show, you really missed a gem before going out on a Friday night.

I'll give the show a big thumbs up from me - and a recommendation that you all watch it, so that it trounces Chris Evans and his *TFI Friday* in the viewing figures. God, I'm sad aren't I?

David Hughes

Adam Svenson



Dimension Jump '98

ORDER OF EVENTS

HATTIE HAYRIDGE
NORMAN LOVETT
AUCTION
CHRIS BARRIE
CRAIG CHARLES
DANNY JOHN-JULES
AUTOGRAPHS
CLAYTON MARK
FANCY DRESS
NORMAN LOVETT
ROBERT LLEWELLYN
CHLOE ANNETT
MORE AUTOGRAPHS

FRIDAY NIGHT

The Britannia Adelphi is a very large Edwardian hotel in the centre of Liverpool. How would it cope with 600 *Red Dwarf* fans from Britain, Australia, America and Sweden? Only time would tell!

In our opinion the staff ranged from 100% fabulous to the most miserable and useless human beings on the planet. We think some of the receptionists had obviously taken special lessons in slowness, pettiness, rudeness and That's-not-my-job-I'm-not-doing-it being a speciality. But praise must go to Gary who had been designated to helping us all weekend. We couldn't fault him - he did so much beyond the call of duty - not going to bed on Saturday night being one of them. He looked after the cast magnificently - it's just a shame some of the other staff members couldn't be like him.

But that's enough of the hotel - you're not interested in them. What happened at *Dimension Jump* - that's what you want to know - isn't it?

Friday night started with the obligatory introduction to the Fan Club/Dimension Jump team. Along with the usual motley crew of Steev, Bev, Sean, Caroline and Rory - this year we had new-boy John as an addition to the line-up.

Seeing as over the past year we have had numerous requests for a return to the girls vs boys quiz we decided to bring it back.

Despite telling the hotel 350 times over the past few months that we required two flip charts for scoring they still didn't provide any. Hey ho.

Also on Friday night several pairs of tickets to see the last episode of series VIII being recorded were up for grabs. To win them required the biggest test of endurance that many people had ever witnessed. We're not sure if those stomachs will ever be the same again.

To win the first pair of tickets four very keen people had a competition - the first to eat a bowl of cornflakes with chilli flakes on the top a la Dave Lister would succeed. We naively presumed that the contestants would gingerly tuck in and force themselves to eat the contents of the bowl - oh how wrong we were. These people could represent their country at the Olympics in the chilli cornflake eating 100m. If only such an event existed.

The next pair of tickets up for grabs required four contestants to have a beer drinking competition. Of course, this being *Red Dwarf* - this was a beer drinking competition with a difference. A beer milkshake drinking competition would you believe! Again four contestants downed their pints like their lives depended on it. The rest of the audience watched in amazement. How could they drink it? I can say here and now that the fan club team had all sniffed one and had all refused to drink it - and most of them are professional drinkers!

If you thought beer milkshakes were bad - prepare yourself for the worst. The final four people desperate for tickets to see series VIII had to eat sprout crumble. Cameras and camcorders went into overdrive to record this monumental event - purely to back up people's memories at a later date to confirm that they really had witnessed such a gruesome sight. As Bev pointed out - even her dog had turned his nose up at sprout crumble. Maybe Dave Lister's eating habits aren't all that peculiar after all.

Not that anybody's interested but the girls beat the boys - yet again. That's three victories out of three competitions. Come on boys - where's your *Red Dwarf* knowledge?

With that it was onto the bar - or wherever people fancied going. There was loads to do in the hotel and in Liverpool itself, although we found that most stayed in the hotel, very few ventured outside. Not wanting to miss anything, we suppose.

YOUR COMMENTS

Here and on all the pages featuring the cast, we have included (in italics) quotes from people attending *Dimension Jump* that were either said to us at the weekend or written to us afterwards.

They said - 'you won't believe your eyes' - and I can back up that claim. I cannot believe what I witnessed on Friday night. I really can't. Even looking back at the photos doesn't help. These visions will stay with me forever. Fabulous stuff.

How could anybody eat sprout crumble? Beer milkshakes? Chilli flakes on cornflakes? But then again I was lucky enough to get tickets to see series VIII. I'd probably be up there too if I hadn't.

Sprout crumble!! I couldn't believe it. It was brilliant fun watching people devouring Lister's least favourite food 'sprouts make me chuck'

I was really nervous - it was my very first Dimension Jump - but after one hour in the company of 600 other like-minded people I was in hog's heaven. Watching everyone else taking part in the quiz (I was too nervous) and eating and drinking those awful things ended my nerves, I met loads of really great people and saw some names from BTL at last. Andrew Ellard and MJ Fouldes are really nice - I thought they'd be both egomaniacs, but they were lovely.

Friday nights are always very enjoyable, everyone goes in wanting to have a good time, we meet the Dimension Jump/Fan Club team and we have fun, it's a good ice breaker. Then of course we go to the bar and I drink too much and I tend to forget the rest of the night. Shame really because I know I enjoy myself!

Friday afternoon and evening was spent watching loads of RD fans arriving in reception and booking in and then registering for Dimension Jump. Once this was done loads of people were then trying to find friends that hadn't arrived yet - and even better - penpals that they had never met. My friend and I were trying to work out how you could find someone who you'd never met before. Oh well, it kept us amused for hours.

I even got excited seeing Eileen and Brian from the hotel - sad or what!

I will never eat sprouts again.

HATTIE HAYRIDGE

Saturday morning arrived as it always does - a lot sooner than you really would like. Bleery-eyed people made their way out of the rooms and downstairs to breakfast before the first guest. A small group of a dozen or so stayed up all night. Apparently it's a lot easier to stay up all night than to have just a few hours sleep, these people inform us.

Hattie Hayridge was to be the first *Red Dwarf* guest of the weekend. Sean announced Hattie and a huge cheer went up as she entered the room.

It took a good five minutes before Hattie could actually start as the flashes from all the cameras were still going berserk.

"So who's not been to a *Dimension Jump* before?" asked Hattie. Loads of hands went up.

"And who's not here now?" she enquired.

A baby started crying. "Oooh, I'm being heckled now!" she laughed.

Hattie started by answering a question on her book - *Random Abstract Memory* - her autobiography, which took her up to last year. "Obviously there won't be another one until I've lived a bit more."

You may have heard Hattie's voice recently on television, she was the voice on the Lenny Goes To Town show (Saturday evenings, 6 o'clockish BBC1.) She could be heard only talking to Lenny and announcing guests for the entire run.

"It wasn't that interesting really going all round the country sitting backstage and talking into a microphone, quite boring really. Well it was good for collecting shower caps from posh hotels, that was about it."

Someone from the audience asked what the first gag was Hattie told on stage.

"I can't remember precisely, but it was probably about my mum. She thought she had appendicitis and was rushed to hospital and ended up with me. It was a good job the doctor knew his stuff as otherwise I may have ended up in a pickling jar somewhere!" she remembers.

"Whenever the Queen came on the telly, my mum would chirp up 'oooh I wouldn't swap jobs with her' which I always thought really odd, because my mum was a cleaner in a pub."

"I have been quite a few shows this year. I have been to Germany to do some shows. The Germans' English is so good that they can listen and understand the humour. It is quite a bizarre thing trying to make Germans laugh. I got a friend to translate 'My dog's got no nose, how does it smell? terrible' into German and apparently it does work!"

The next person wanted to know if Hattie got recognised a lot.

"Yes, although some people recognise me just by my voice, which is amazing, I can't think of one at the moment," she laughed.

Hattie went on to explain the first time she did stand-up.

"It was a spur of the moment thing. I was a secretary and I didn't want to be a secretary anymore. I went to a comedy club and the compere said 'after the interval if anyone in the audience wants to get up on stage and have a go you can. So I had 8 Southern Comforts for courage and had a go. I moaned about being a secretary and they gave me a booking afterwards. About a year later I was in the episode *Parallel Universe* - so it all went a bit weird really."

"I never really knew what I wanted to be. I kept going to the school careers officer for years after I'd left school. I just had no idea - a secretary that flew a plane was all I could think of. Well I suppose a spaceship's computer is near enough!"

Hattie is my favourite cast member. She is so friendly and she always writes a little message to you when she's doing an autograph.

It's only when I see Hattie again that I remember how fabulous she was in Red Dwarf. I wish there was a way both she and Norman could be in it.

She really is a lovely lady.

Hattie was around all weekend. She's got time for everybody. Can't there be two Hollies? Please Doug?

If you ever go to a disco and need someone to dance round a handbag with you - Hattie's your woman - she even provides the handbag!

She's bloody brilliant!!!



NORMAN LOVETT

So who could follow Hattie? Well after a short pause for a Dimension Jump raffle, where untold amounts of goodies could be won, there was only one person, *Red Dwarf's* other computer, Norman Lovett.

Norman took to the stage, and the camera flashes went into overdrive. "Wow, that looks a really good camera" observed Norman "it looks like it can get rid of red eye - unless you've been drinking all night!"

Norman's two daughters, Lily and Kitty joined him on stage. Much 'aahing' could be heard from the audience as they quite happily posed for photos with their dad.

As it was Norman's birthday his family had come to *Dimension Jump* with him and his daughters obviously loved being with their Dad on stage - and he loved having them up there with him.

Just as Norman was about to start answering questions from the audience - Sean stopped him.

"Actually Norman, we've got something for you" and a cake was brought in shaped like a computer terminal with Norman's face on the screen, and two giant cards - signed by everybody attending *Dimension Jump*.

Six hundred people then sang *Happy Birthday* to Norman and he had to pose again for all the cameras with his birthday cake and cards. "I bet these cards are full of money" smiled Norman.

Someone in the audience asked Norman if he was happy with his lines in series VIII of *Red Dwarf*. Would he like more, for instance?

"Well, obviously I'd like more, but that's out of my hands, I'm sure they'd love to use me a lot more, but there's six people in the cast. I feel that my lines are as good as anything I've ever done. When you first see a script the very first thing you do is look at your lines. I think everyone's going to be very happy with this series. At the day, what I always say is that as long as the material you've got is good - don't complain!"

Did Norman think series VIII was good?

"Oh yes. In fact both my daughters went to the studio the other day and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They had their photos taken with all the cast, they had a great day.

Someone - either very brave or very stupid - tried to ask Norman a question from one of the first two series regarding the plot and Norman's lines.

"Oh shut up" laughed Norman "I'm not going to answer those questions. You know I can't remember, these happened years ago!"

Did Norman have any information on the *Red Dwarf* film. "None whatsoever, I'm afraid, I just hope I'm in it."

What was it like coming back to play Holly after several years away?

"Holly is slightly different from when I did him years ago, he smiles a lot more, even Doug noticed that. You get another little layer from Holly with this series. Holly smiles more because I'm happier now I suppose." Norman laughs, who then went on to admit "I've always watched *Red Dwarf* - even after I left. It's a very special programme, I've thought all along, even with the first series when hardly anyone watched it. Even if I'd never come back I'd still watch it.

When Norman came off stage he spent the next hour just showing everyone his cards and reading the messages everyone had written and posing for photographs with his cake.

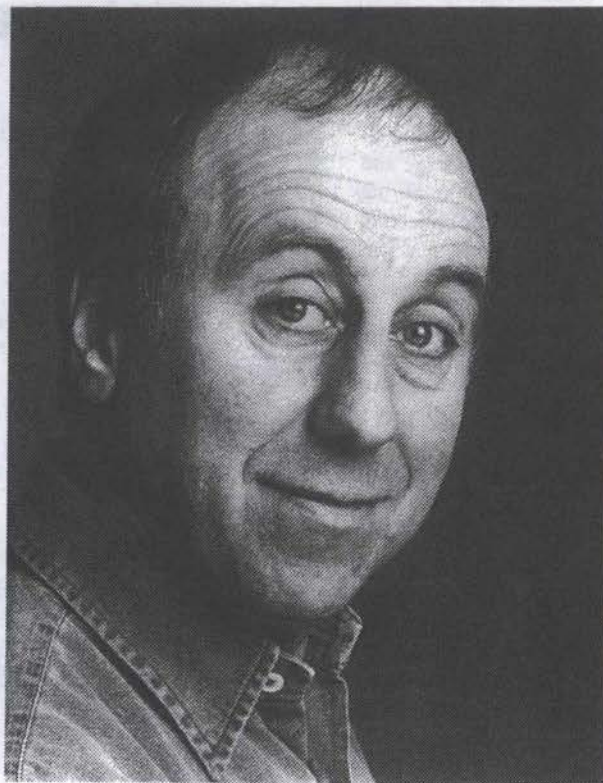
Saturday was Norman's birthday. When he received the cake - he looked so surprised and the cards that we'd all signed. I hope he enjoyed his day.

Norman's daughters were adorable. Why can't my children behave like that?

Norman looked like he had a wonderful birthday. It was a treat to share it with him. The cake tasted nice too.

He never ceases to amaze me - he's so funny and the delivery is spot on. I wish he was on telly more often.

I love Norman Lovett - he's so funny, he looked like he had a brilliant birthday - and he loved his birthday cake - in the shape of a computer monitor with his face on it.



CHRIS BARRIE

Next up onto the stage was Chris Barrie.

Like the rest of the cast he was asked what series VIII was like.

"Well in my own humble opinion it is the best series we've ever done. So you can't ask for better than that. Ever. though we're only half way through it's on course for being the best series we've done. It has a good balance of the early *Red Dwarf* - the Lister and Rimmer bunk scenes, the character comedy and the visual effects are getting better and better. The production values all round are superb.

Was he happy with the way in which Rimmer was brought back?

"Yes I was - and I can't say anymore than that I'm afraid, but yes, very much.

A member of the audience then reminded Chris that at last year's Dimension Jump he had promised to learn the words to the Rimmer Song and sing it. The audience cheered. Chris blushed.

"I've let you down badly haven't I?" he eventually replied. "I promise I won't make promises for next year!"

Was there anything Chris liked about Rimmer?

Chris laughed "Not really. He's the most insufferable, anally retentive oik in the world of all time. But I do actually like him - he's so deeply sad and as an actor I'll never have a better, or funny, more rounded boffin sort of a role.

Was he at all like Rimmer?

"Any observer in our rehearsal rooms who knows me and the others well will obviously see there's something in us in our characters. It's the 5% factor. I give the appearance of being ordered - I'm wearing a tie and suit. For instance I drove up today and brought Danny. Rimmer would have got to Manchester, got lost but would have prepared for days and would never have taken the Cat.

A hard hitting question was thrown at Chris next - how would he handle it? How and WHY did you get the Huggies Nappy advert?!

"Ahhh" he laughed "but can you tell which of the girls I am? I am really, really sorry. It was just another voice over job for me. I didn't know how much airplay

it would get and that it would be so nauseating. Can I just say here and now that I am not a Huggies man.

Chris then told how he got the part of Rimmer.

"I first read for the part of Lister - and in some ways that was the character I wanted to play. But looking back Rimmer has made me into what I am today. That's quite a frightening prospect isn't it?"

Would he be kissing Craig in series VIII.

"Not so far - I don't think that's too big a revelation for the powers that be. But Craig and I have some good stuff - now there's a teaser for you! And can I just say it was a joy to kiss Craig."

"Series VIII is brilliant - and that's for all the characters, not just Rimmer. It really is the best series I've worked on." Chris added.

A girl asked what his wedding was like.

"It was great, it was last December."

Could the audience see photos.

"I didn't know you were all going to take such an interest in my personal life" laughed Chris. "Next year, as well as learning the words to the Rimmer Song,

I'll bring a wedding photo that sums up the whole day."

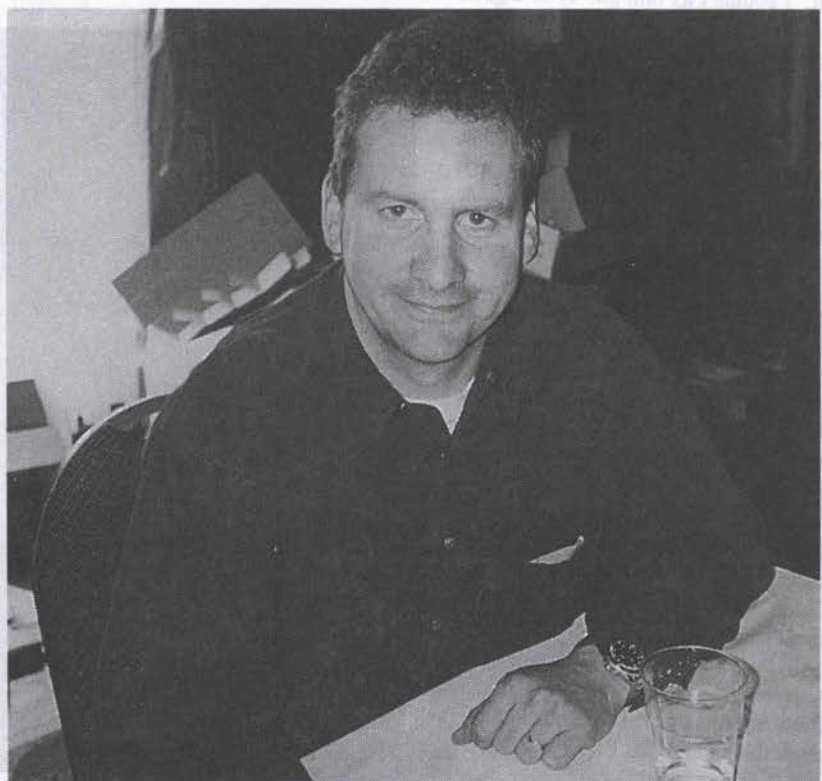
Chris then closed his Audience with.. with his now annual auction of Rimmer items. Last year was the Reggie Dixon LP - this year's was a book entitled *Teach Yourself Esperanto*. The book is inscribed *The private and personal property of A J Rimmer, Bsc, Ssc* - the rest of the cast also signed it (in character) *What is Esperanto for twat?* - Dave Lister being just one of the inscriptions. The book went for £250.

Smartest dressed cast member - by a long mark. Not sure about the tie though - but at least you could see it at the back.

Chris has got to be the king of auctioneers - where he gets all his auction items from is nobody's business. Reggie Dixon album last year - 'Teach yourself Esperanto' book this year. What's it going to be next year Chris?

I will quite happily wear my ties to work now, knowing that at least there is one person out there with a worse one than mine.

That man is sex on legs. I want him oiled and in my room now!



CRAIG CHARLES

Next on stage came the local boy - Craig Charles, getting a huge welcome.

"Where's your locks?" called out a member of the audience.

"On my doors!" called back Craig. "No actually they're sewn in. They used to be done properly, proper hair extensions but you can't wash them and they end up really, really, smelly. If people are down wind of you and you're walking down the road - you're forever shouting out 'it's not me it's my hair.' Sometimes they use 6" nails to put them in because I'm a scouser but that doesn't do any discernable damage."

The obligatory series VIII question reared it's head.

"Series VIII is going really well. It's great to be back in front of any audience. Norman's back and Chloe is there. We're all more mature now and we're having a really good time. Everyone's enjoying it. It's great."

What was it like to kiss Craig - oops I mean Chris asked a young boy.

"I find kissing Craig Charles pretty spectacular!" announced Craig laughing. "Actually I did find kissing Chris unpleasantly exciting, it was good. We're annoyed that they cut it so short, as we were snogging for about a minute and a half. I couldn't let him go. Is he a good kisser? Lots of tongue, a yellow tongue as well and loads of dribble coming down his chin. You know I think he really enjoyed it as well! Do you know every series I get to kiss things like sirens, monsters, Caroline Carmen and Chris Barrie - and Chris gets to kiss Jane Horrocks and loads of girls - it's just not fair, something is wrong!"

The next questioner wanted to know what he thought were the annoying bits of the other cast members.

"Well Danny's annoying because he's always late, Robert is annoying because he's always so nice and now he's sold his book rights, he's now annoyingly rich. Chris has mellowed a lot and we get on really well, so he's not annoying at all. Chloe - um there's nothing annoying about Chloe, she's lovely."

A member of the audience wanted to know if it was true that Craig had to wear black rubber in series VIII.

"Yes it is true, in this series one of the outfits I wear is a black rubber. It's in the second episode - it's a skin diving suit with the bottom out and I'm on the front cover of *Big Boys in Flippers* - it's great. I had to wear it and you have to cover yourself in talcum powder, it's a bugger to put on."

Craig then noticed one of the fan club's new T-shirts in the audience. "Let's have a look at that T-shirt - *Smeg Happens* - wow - that's brilliant. I've written a section on Smeg Happens in my book - *The Log* (still available in all good bookshops)" and he launches into a section on religion - it's brilliant. We won't reprint it here - buy the book.

At that stage someone storms the stage - Craig's 11 month old daughter Anna Jo has seen Daddy on stage and she wants him. She wanders on stage and sits on Daddy's knee. She's beautiful. The camera flashes go berserk - but she's not bothered at all. Craig hands her the microphone and she burbles quite happily into it. She's an instant star. Craig puts his glasses on her. "Look - it's Elton John" he announces, Anna Jo quite happily allows them to stay on. She's having a brilliant time on stage. Craig Charles is totally upstaged - not that he minds one bit. Anna Jo, having seen her dad, decides that she really should try and find her mum and leaves her dad.

Craig also has an auction item - a copy of his *Total Almanac of All Knowledge* - a book no longer available in the shops. Craig has found out what Chris got for his book - and he will not let it go for less. At the end two people are bidding for it. One of which is an American. "Don't let the American get it" he pleads to the other bidder - "It's our culture, don't let it leave the country!" They continue bidding. In the end the non-American bidder wins. "and where are you from?" asks Craig "Colorado, USA" answers the bidder. Ooops.

Anna-Jo stole the show - she was so lovely. Not that Craig isn't you understand.

Craig is just one of those people you cannot help but like. As soon as he's on stage you have this huge grin on his face.

Craig has this natural enthusiasm for life and everything in it - you just can't help but be pulled in with it.

Craig and Anna-Jo - there I was fancying the arse off him and then Anna-Jo comes on stage and sits on his knee and I'm going all gooey over her. She did look uncannily like Elton John though with Craig's glasses on!

Give Anna-Jo her own question and answer session next time - great value!!



DANNY JOHN-JULES

Who could follow Craig Charles? Why Danny John-Jules of course, the funky feline of *Red Dwarf*.

Danny takes to the stage wearing a blue hat. "Take your hat off" someone from the audience shouts. "No take your shoes off?" shouts back Danny. He swaps it after a while for a hat from the audience.

After the camera flashes finally calm down the audience plead with Danny to sing. Danny eventually agrees - as long as they do backing vocals. So Danny serenades the audience with a jazz version of the *Red Dwarf* theme tune. Yep you had to be there to appreciate it!

Later on, of course, he went on to do Tongue Tied. It is an amazing sight seeing a man on stage singing with 600 people on backing vocals - and all of them being word perfect!

"So we're all here celebrating the 10th anniversary of *Red Dwarf*" announces Danny looking into the audience "you all look so old, I can remember when you were all young."

Someone asked Danny about the bronze bust that was being made for him.

"Yes, it's finished now, it's in my house. A gentleman in Nottingham made it, it's really good."

Had Danny had any accidents on his motorbike.

"Thanks for being so positive! I've had no accidents and the bike is fine, but it's covered up at the moment as it's too wet and cold. I'm not one of those real bikers" he laughs and launches into an improvised song on bikers.

Would they like to do a musical version of *Red Dwarf*.

Danny laughed. "If you knew how long it takes to make two minutes of musical film you wouldn't ask that question. It's very complicated." Danny then launched into singing Elvis songs.

One of the audience asked Danny if he had any advise to anyone wanting to join the acting profession.

"Yeah, get used to the dole office!" laughed Danny. "It's a very tough business, I wouldn't recommend it to my worst enemy - or maybe I would! Find a niche. My very first job was a backing

dancer behind Jimmy Tarbuck, of all people."

Did Danny like the clothes he has to wear in *Red Dwarf*?

"Well we don't dress the same, as you can tell" (Danny is wearing an Adidas tracksuit) "I like his style because he's different, although he wouldn't be seen dead in my clothes."

How did Danny get into character for the part of Cat - did he have to watch a lot of cats?

"No, not at all!" he laughs "Rob Grant told me to read the Desmond Morris book *Catwatching* which I did. That's all you need to do."

Did Danny have any other work in the pipeline?

"Well I've done a programme called *Sleep*, which is a half hour programme for Channel 4 which is out in February next year. Also, did you see that Chris Evans is going to turn Lock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels into a series for TV? So you never know!" he laughs.

Danny had also brought something along to be auctioned - the Tongue Tied single and video (both signed) - the single having been deleted some years ago. "How much shall I let this go for? How much did Craig get for his book?" asked Danny "£200!! - £300 for this then!" The bids coming flying in.

"I'll personalise both of them in gold pen to whoever gets it" announces Danny "quick go to WH Smiths and get a gold pen" he whispers backstage. Danny's auction eventually goes for more than Craig's item - Danny is obviously very happy.

Although I attend every year I am always shocked by just how different Danny is from the Cat. I always expect the Cat to strut onto the stage in his fabulous outfits. It's always a shock to the system to see Danny in his tracksuit and floppy hat. Not that I'm knocking the tracksuit and hat, you understand!

Is Danny part of identical triplets or something? Everywhere I went in the hotel - he was there too! He's everywhere.

How do they control him on the set of Red Dwarf? Does he disappear there as well - I'd love to know?

Danny is everywhere you go at Dimension Jump - I'm always quite surprised when I go into the ladies toilet that he isn't there too. Maybe next time Danny?

I've sang with Danny John-Jules!!



SATURDAY NIGHT

After all those cast members it was now time for the autograph session.

"Why don't we sit in alphabetical order so that we're in the right order for people if they want their booklet signed" suggested Hattie.

"Fabulous idea" agreed the rest of the cast.

"No wonder you're not in the programme anymore" commented Robert "You're far too clever for us." "You know, autographs only become valuable if they're scarce because the person in question didn't sign many autographs" observed Caroline just as the cast were about to enter the merchandise room. "That's it we're not signing anything" announced most of the cast. "We want expensive signatures." An autograph session with people refusing to sign their signatures? Just get up there and sign or you don't get any dinner! You have to be tough with these showbiz types!

There was a surprise guest for Saturday night. Infact the cast only knew about him an hour before he went on stage. Everybody's favourite wax-droid from *Meltdown*, Elvis Presley, was to appear. "Guys - we are going to have one hell of a time tonight!" announced Danny to the rest of the cast.

And indeed they did.

Clayton Mark - the very same Elvis Presley from *Meltdown* was the entertainment for Saturday night. Did he rock? You betcha!

Clayton/Elvis - whatever you called him did a fantastic set - Elvis song after Elvis song. But of course it didn't end there. Elvis then walked into the audience and grabbed an unsuspecting Danny John Jules. Danny then sang and danced with Elvis! Next up to sing a song was one Chris Barrie - doing a marvellous Elvis impression - even taking his jacket off. Who next? Craig Charles of course. Craig sang a fabulous version of *You were Always on my Mind* - the room was buzzing. Craig showed off his moonwalking skills. Kept that quite Craig!

Robert Llewellyn was next up. He walked onto the dance floor as Kryten and basically Kryten danced to Elvis Presley. Hearing people describe this dance for several hours later still did not do it justice. Kryten trying to be Elvis Presley is something that has got to be included in a future episode of *Red Dwarf*. If only so that Robert can see how fantastic it is.

Elvis then got the entire cast on stage to sing and dance with him. They ended up down on their knees doing a *Wayne's World* - 'we're not worthy'. The Waxdroid King was back in town.

Norman Lovett followed doing his stand-up in his own inimitable style. Just repeating his jokes here wouldn't do him justice - go and see him if he's ever in your area!

The cast were buzzing for hours afterwards, most of them staying for the disco. Chris and Craig even managed some dancing!

The standard in the fancy dress competition was very high this year. The cast found it a tough job judging - in the end having two joint winners. Beke and Eileen as two of Rimmer's concubines from *Rimmerworld* and Sarah Dennis as Lister painting the ship - were worthy winners. Congratulations girls.

Happy Birthday, I blubbed uncontrollably.

The cast were presented with a beautiful 10th anniversary cake and we all sang Happy Birthday. I felt really honoured to be there, I know other people will laugh at me for that, but I was really moved.

The highlight of the weekend was the whole cast, Hattie, Norman, Craig, Chris, Danny, Norman and Chloe - and Helen Norman from GNP being presented with that huge 10th anniversary cake. I was there too, we all celebrated together. The cast looked really touched too, the flashes from the cameras went berserk. I wept buckets, I haven't told anyone that yet.

Elvis and the cast - the highlight of the weekend for me. It was so funny. Unfortunately none of my photos came out - but things like that are not forgotten easily. And Norman Lovett is just a comic genius.

Some guy who thought he was the biggest RD fan in the world (he was really irritating) turned around and said to his mate 'Why have they got Elvis Presley? I don't get it?' That made my weekend. Never seen Meltdown mate?

I've never seen Norman Lovett live before - he's brilliant

A brilliant evening that I don't think any of us will forget in a hurry. Elvis and the cast, then a much better-than-usual fancy dress and then Norman, who never disappoints (if he comes to your town go and see him) - and then I danced all night at the disco! I want more!!

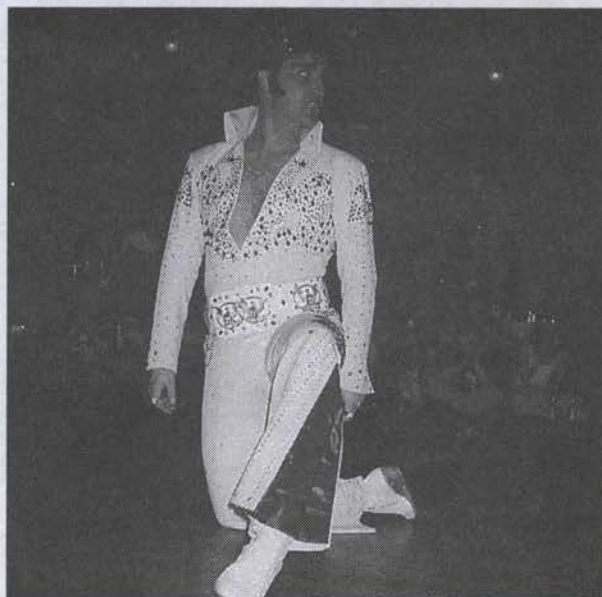
I know I sound really wet, but I cried when they brought the 10th anniversary cake out for the cast and we all sang

Elvis chatted me up - usually I'd be boasting about this - but he chatted everybody up, so I don't think I'm that special.

Craig danced with me to You were always on my mind, I shared a lift with Craig and Chris and I danced round Hattie's handbag and I nearly knocked Danny over.

Elvis was a man on the prowl - I don't know if he managed to get anyone. He was fabulous.

The best Saturday night I can remember, when can we do it again?



ROBERT & CHLOE

Robert Llewellyn was the first guest for Sunday morning. "I'm sorry I'm not very good in the mornings, I wimped out and went to bed really early 5.30 am, compared to the rest of you."

The first question asked concerned the amount of time it took to put Kryten's mask on.

"Well when I first started it took 5 hours, then it went down to 3 hours for series IV, then 2 hours for series V, VI and VII and now it's 50 minutes. I have to shave my head though. The costume only takes about 4 minutes, compared to the hour it used to be, although it's still a problem if I'm bursting for a wee. I still have to plan ahead."

Would Kryten become human again?

"I can't see it happening somehow," sighs Robert "the one episode where I didn't have my rubber and plastic on I spent in a surgical gown with no pants on and of course Craig had to show the audience which was deeply humiliating. I do appear without a mask in series VIII very briefly though, as another character."

The worst episode for Robert to film was *Demons and Angels*. "I went out of my usual hot sticky outfit into an even hotter stickier costume. It was a thermally insulated motorbike jumpsuit, so that you could ride really fast on a motorbike in freezing conditions and still be warm. So in a studio with all the lights on would be incredible - it was horrible."

What's it like playing Kryten?

"Hot, sticky, smelly, annoying and fun!"

If Robert had a groinal attachment, like Kryten, what would he want?

"Ooohh, a drain cleaner with a really long nozzle to go round bends, or a bread knife. I've no idea. What a question!"

Chloe Annett then enters the stage to join Robert. She tells the audience of her experience filming one of the scenes from series VIII. "It was a shower scene in a rugby club and it was freezing. There was me and some girls wearing swim suits rolled down. Everyone else had coats, hat, gloves on, it was so cold, it was hell, and there was me in my swimming cozy!"

"But I did get to wear Brad Pitt's pants which made up for it" Chloe laughs. "This stunt co-ordinator came in to help us with

this scene. I was put into these pants which has a harness attached to you. I did ask - and they hadn't been washed!!! He wore them in Seven Years in Tibet."

Did she prefer Kochanski's outfits this year?

"Oh yes, very much so. They're combat trousers this series, very GI Jane. I didn't like the clothes from the last series I must say."

As the most senior person on Red Dwarf how did she discipline the rest of the crew?

"I shout alot and I'm really quite bossy!"

What was kissing Craig like?

"I knew I'd get asked this! It was fine, I kiss him again this series, it's quite a session" Chloe teases.

Robert and Chloe have a pair of tickets to see the last episode of series VIII being recorded to auction. Could they get more than Danny? All weekend the auction items had been going up in pounds, occasionally £5 - but not now. £25 and £50 extra was added by every person bidding. At the end Tony Kemp from Northamptonshire bid £300 to huge cheers from the audience - the very last two tickets available for series VIII. Robert and Chloe signed the tickets and were astounded at the amount they went for.

Robert Llewellyn is lovely and scrummy - you can keep your Chris Barries and Craig Charles - Robert's the one for me!

The only thing that managed to get me out of bed before midday on a Sunday - Robert Llewellyn. He's just brilliant.

It's impossible to watch Robert and not have this stupid grin on your face - I checked all around me we all had the same stupid grin.

Well she's not single - but I took it well.

Phwoarr! Sorry that's all I can say.

On stage Chloe said that she's read a fan's letter in BTL about DJ '97 saying how Chris was very controlled and didn't mess around or swear like the other cast members. She assumed this referred to her swearing. Well it did slightly - it was my letter! Getting an autograph I told this to Chloe. She stood up, hands on the table, pretending to be really angry. Chris, who was beside her, said "I was controlled wasn't I?" Apparently a few of the cast had read and discussed my letter in the green room. How splendid! And if Chloe ever reads this one, I must say she's incredibly fun and sexy.

Robert and Chloe made a great combination - they're both so funny. Chloe is absolutely stunning in real life. I've got to say Kochanski is one of my favourite characters now!!!



OVER TO YOU.....

Thank you for an excellent *Dimension Jump* - the best yet from my experience. I want to thank the entire *Dimension Jump* team for their organisation that ensured everything ran as smoothly as possible.

I realise that you all appreciate how wonderful *Red Dwarf* is (you're in the Fan Club - right) but I couldn't help but feel really special at the weekend.

The reasons follow:

1. All the guest stars were brilliant. How many other conventions can boast ALL of their major guest stars attending and looking and acting like they were really enjoying themselves (this may have been alcohol induced!)
2. The New Series: Although very little information about this was revealed (quite right too) revelations included that there are more jokes, more character based episodes and more importantly Bob the Skutter is back!!!! You can't help but feel that whilst writing it Doug was really looking to give something back to the fans by taking heed of their suggestions.
3. The entire cast says that their preliminary opinions are that series VIII will be the best yet. This was also supported by the fans who have been to some of the filming (lucky goits, but I'll be there on December 4th)

There concludes my list, I hope everyone realises how lucky we are to be fans of the best programme ever.

Dimension Jump 1998, celebrating *Red Dwarf*'s tenth anniversary, here's hoping that there are many more to come!

Vicky Evans

Wow, what a fantastic weekend. It buzzed with excitement from beginning to end. It was the best *Dimension Jump* weekend ever - and I've been to loads of them.

Highlight for me was Elvis from *Meltdown* doing his show with the cast. It still amazes me that there were some fans watching who didn't 'get it' - why was Elvis there. Luckily they were in the minority.

Same time next year?

Gary Bennett

The best weekend of my life. Thank you very much.

S Williams

I'm just writing to give you all a huge hug for the best *Dimension Jump* ever. The sight of Chris Barrie getting down to Elvis was almost too much to bear. I've never laughed so much in my life. It was even better than DJ '97 and that was great. I was so relieved to read in the programme that all the cast were going to be there. It was a fantastic weekend.

My only grumble was that it ended early. It was such a shame that some of the cast had to leave early. I was really looking forward to the charity photo session and then it was called off. It would have been a dream come true to have my photo taken with the entire cast together. But saying all that I still had the best weekend ever and I only have one more thing to say.

When is DJ '99?

Yours still in shock from a dancing Chris Barrie (he gets more gorgeous every year)

Sarah Markham

What a weekend it was, spent running around a right posh hotel (*are you sure about that?* - Bev.) acres of birds and booze and lots too many like-nails-scraped-down-a-blackboard voiced Liverpudlians, all hob-nobbing with the stars off our most favourite proggy. Yes, the ENTIRE cast of *Hotel* were there, plus a few Dwarfers trying to gatecrash our little party.

And what a size it was, according to Sean (Mr Compere beyond comparison yet again) speaking on the Friday night when he opened the con, no sorry, weekend, nearly 600 of us had marched the long and arduous journey to Liverpool. It fair got the crowd whipped up into a frenzy and no mistake. The weekend got off to it's start, unsurprisingly, with Friday night and the Girls Vs Boys quiz. This was spiced up this year with a few revolting competitions, inviting victims to eat/drink cornflakes with chillis on top/beer flavoured milkshakes and sprout crumble, as quickly as possible. The winners would receive tickets to see series VIII being filmed, losers were just left to feel doubly sick. The overall result of the competition was lost in the fun of it all, but obviously had anyone been keeping score we lads would have walked it.

Friday night became Saturday in the bar. Saturday proper started with Hattie Hayridge ridiculously early in the morning

being her usual chirpy and happy self. Later in the day came Norman Lovett, Chris Barrie, Craig Charles and Danny John-Jules all being really funny and auctioning things. By far the best of which was Craig's imploring the audience to outbid an American cousin and stop him from taking his lot away with him, before finding out that both the *Dimension Jumpers* left bidding against each other were from the USA. Later in the day came the auction that must have raised an absolute packet for Amnesty International (and bully for them.) Things I'd most liked to have put on my shelf but couldn't afford were the actual chess set from *Queeg* and the crew's own *Red Dwarf* logo T-Shirts that money simply can't buy, but as I said the sort of money people were bidding indicated that more than a few banks up and down the country had been done over, just prior to the *Dimension Jump* weekend.

One of the top two highlights of the convention for me though, was what came after the autograph session and dinner. One Elvis Presley, Clayton Mark - him from *Meltdown*, in the flesh gave us a career-defining performance. First getting Danny to sing and dance with him, then Chris, then Robert Llewellyn perfectly portraying Kryten at his sixth formers leaving do, then finally Craig who made it obvious he can moonwalk better than Jacko ever will. I suppose you had to be there: It was almost a Zen thing, but you know, perhaps if everybody in the world could have seen Chris Barrie's Elvis thrusts, or heard Danny's singing, just maybe this would be a better, healthier cleaner place to live on.

After this came the Fancy Dress Competition, again very well supported this year. The funny thing about the joint winners - the Aussies had to pass on their prize - tickets to see series VIII being filmed, so these went on to be auctioned on Sunday morning.

Next up and for me the highlight no 2 of the weekend, was Norman Lovett doing his stand-up segment. Spot on about the Adelphi he was, comparing the place to the Overlook in *The Shining*. A very funny man, but especially when talking about class, a perhaps slightly merry Chris Barrie had to take to the stage and right a few wrongs members of the audience had made. And "you can't buy boots in Boots, but there's a lot of dicks in Dixons." Many a true word.

Then it was disco time. I was not privvy to the complex political wrangling that went on behind the scenes before this year's event, wrangling that meant instead of the usual (and sorely missed) Disco Dave we were left instead with a tubby Liverpoolian spinning the tunes. (*Disco Dave had a family wedding to attend - he sends his apologies - Bev*)

This said, however, the evening was far from wasted if only because we mere mortals were allowed sight of a true disco diva, namely Steev, throwing some serious shapes on that dance floor, surrounded by an army of adoring female followers. Members of the cast popped up as well from time to time, but no one really noticed, all except one chap, who instead of dancing or anything else sensible, was on the dance-floor video-taping his idols' drunken swayings. Well it takes all sorts, I suppose (and if he's reading - only joking and would you please send me a copy. Ahem.)

Sunday morning arrived very early indeed and with it came Robert Llewellyn, later ably assisted by Chloe Annett, who this year did not offer the torrent of swearing and abuse the crowd were expecting. If fact after five minutes of relatively Pam Ayrish behaviour (rather than the expected appearance of Roy Chubby Brown) mother smeggies in the crowd were brave enough to invite back into the banqueting room their children who they had sent out, in fear of having to hear later 'what does f*** mean, mummy?'

To sum up, congratulations on a fantastic weekend yet again. Congrats must also go to Sean the compere, even though at the disco he offered my girl a swig of his wine bottle but tore it off me! (*He had to be drunk!* - Bev) Well done matey boy and congrats too to Bev, the weekend's backroom organiser. Well done everybody else in the team too - I expect I speak for everybody when I say the event was utterly fantastic and if you want it, I'll send my registration form for next year's weekend right now! See you next year! Hip hip (hooray) etc!

Dan Smith

Thank you, thank you, thank you. *Dimension Jump '98* was a blast from beginning to end.

Can we have Elvis in another episode of *Red Dwarf*?

K Denning

Almost immediately after last year's DJ, I booked and paid for DJ '98. So after a year of anticipation, I hoped it was going to be worth it. I was not disappointed.

It all started on Friday evening with the usual girls vs boys quiz interspersed with people eating and drinking all sorts of disgusting things (beer milkshakes!) in the quest for *RDVIII* tickets! It was great to see all the familiar faces and a lot of new ones too!

Saturday was the best day from beginning to end, with the entire main cast in attendance. Hattie Hayridge took the stage first, followed by Norman Lovett. It was Norman's birthday and his family was with him. His two daughters even joined him on stage. The charity auction was brought forward from its usual Sunday afternoon slot to Saturday morning when there were more people and even more money! It certainly paid off. Signed photos, posters, smegazines and even Kryten's mask all went for phenomenal amounts of money. All out of my league, but I managed to win a Chris Barrie video cover in the raffle, so I was happy.

After lunch it was time for Chris Barrie. Last year he promised to learn the words for the Rimmer Song - for this year. So of course that was the first thing that was asked! He didn't make any rash promises for next year! Chris was relaxed and entertaining and even did a few impressions! He seems pleased with the role of Rimmer in the new series and having seen an episode recorded I can understand why. Craig Charles was on next and after some jokes and a poem he proceeded to be upstaged by his 11 month old daughter Anna-Jo! Danny John Jules finished the guest sessions for the afternoon and then it was a scramble for the autograph queue.

The special guest in the evening turned out to be Elvis! (AKA Clayton Mark from *Meltdown*.) He sang some Elvis songs (believe it or not) and managed to get each member of the cast to come up in turn and sing along! The Fancy Dress competition was next, with some impressive costumes, followed by Norman Lovett treating us to his stand up routine, some we had heard before, but most of it was new. He is very funny. He was heckled from the floor and Chris Barrie even had to get up on stage and explain why he shouldn't be considered as upper class! It was all very bizarre!

The disco rounded off the evening. Unusually for the guests, they all stayed and danced and got quite drunk! I chatted

with Chris Barrie but some people got to dance with him - life's not fair.

On Sunday morning Robert and Chloe were on stage answering questions and entertaining us, followed by the autograph session for the people who didn't get their's done the day before. Unfortunately the charity photo session planned for after that didn't take place as most of the guests had to leave, but that was the only disappointment of the weekend.

The fan club team put a lot of time and effort into organising the weekend and I for one really appreciated it. Even the hotel was pretty good this year. All that remains is to look forward to the next *Dimension Jump* weekend.

Julie Marr

So that was *DJ '98* - a truly wondrous weekend in which every single cast member turned out to entertain us. The thing I liked best about this year (I was at *DJ '97* too) was how much the guests were about during the weekend. They also were all there nearly all weekend. Sorry we made you miss your son's birthday party Robert.

Staying on the top floor of the hotel was a surprise bonus too, as during the weekend I managed to meet most of the cast (and Elvis) in the lifts. One of my favourite moments was Danny's singing - after a lot of persuasion he did us his own versions of the *Red Dwarf* theme and *Tongue Tied* with us all on backing vocals. What with Craig's poetry, Chris's impressions and everyone else's performances it was an excellent weekend.

Thanks go to Doug for giving everyone the time off from filming, all the cast for being so enthusiastic and special thanks go to the team for putting the whole thing together. I can't imagine that anyone could do it better. I hope to see you all at the next one....

Debbie Ikin

Thank you to *Dimension Jump* organising team - you did an amazing job - I organise much smaller events and they're a nightmare - so I don't envy your job at all.

I doubt most of the attendees give a second thought to the organisation of it, or anything else that isn't from their point of view. So from one attendee at least - thank you and well done.

Brian Benson

Short review: Brilliant

Slightly longer review: The whole weekend was great, it's difficult to know what to pick out, but for me it was when Craig Charles was doing his bit and someone asked him about his poems. He said he'd had a book of them published this year... and the young lady who illustrated them was in the audience today - stand up Philippa Drakeford! As soon as I sat down again, a certain young man named Jake asked me to autograph his copy of *No Other Blue*... made me feel quite a celebrity!

Other highlights include all the cast singing and dancing with Elvis. Also the next generation of dwarfers should get a mention. Norman Lovett's two daughters and of course Craig Charles' little daughter Anna Jo.

Philippa Drakeford

My third *Dimension Jump* - and wow - it was easily the best. I couldn't believe how many of us were there. It was huge, it was awesome. *Dimension Jump* just gets bigger every year.

Friends have asked me before - 'but isn't it the same every year?' Well no, occasionally some of the questions asked you've heard before, but the cast never give an exact duplicate of an answer. You meet new friends every year - usually people you've met at breakfast, in an autograph queue, or waiting for a lift for ten minutes before you find out it's broken down!

Every year it is an amazing feeling - all us Smegheads in one place, most people are really really friendly, there are always a few people that are going to be not to your liking, but that's the same in life anyway - just avoid them.

The Saturday night entertainment was the best Saturday night I've had in years and years. Elvis Presley from *Meltdown* (how many of us when we got home put *Meltdown* on - and thought 'this isn't so bad after all?' - come on I know I'm not the only one!) was superb, getting the cast up as well, the fancy dress was very good this and Norman Lovett was brilliant. And a groovy disco to boot.

Please say that you'll have a *Dimension Jump* next year and that Elvis is coming back - please!!!!!!!!!!!!

Jackie Smith



DIMENSION JUMP '98

Thank you to all of you who attended this year's *Dimension Jump* weekend, and for all your letters of thanks and reviews. We know that some of you weren't happy about the charity photo session being cancelled - but it was taken out of our control.

For the autograph session on the Saturday you were all told one autograph per cast member only - and no photographs. This was done to speed up the queue. Unfortunately, some people couldn't adhere to this simple request and still took photos and had more than one signature. After the cast had done their allotted time for the autograph session there was still 150 people left. We handed out tickets to these people so that they could come back on the Sunday morning and the queue length doubled instantly! One member of cast said they had signed roughly 500 signatures - so there should have been about 80 people left to sign - not the 200 that we had to give raffle tickets to. Because of the people getting extra autographs for themselves (several even joining the back of the queue immediately) we did not have enough time for the photo session. These are the people who should all be 'thanked' for the cancellation of the photo session - not the organisers or the cast. The cast all had prior engagements to go to.

The cost of running *Dimension Jump* is pretty much the same if you have 100 attendees or 600, so it would be financially unviable to run a *Dimension Jump* how they used to be run with only a 100 or so people. If it was capped at 400 attendees these 400 people would have to pay considerably more money than at present.



CONFIDENCE & PARANOIA

A brand new feature in which a member of the Red Dwarf crew will attempt to solve your most problematic dilemmas. This week - *Ask Kryten*.

Good afternoon sirs (and ma'ams) and welcome. I trust you'll find my solutions to your problems both helpful and fascinating. I should begin with apologies to a reader in Norwich - sorry, I have no idea which solvent would be best suited to your purposes. I have, however, alerted the emergency services and they should be arriving shortly.

Now on to the first letter.

Dearest Kryten

My darling, I miss you terribly. Each time I think of you I cry until tears run down my stalk. Hector - who has no idea that I'm recording this message - has yet to find an antidote for our condition, but his work is progressing well.

But the problem is that, right now, we see each other as that which we most desire. When he looks at me, he sees a Kinitawowi GELF he used to know. When I look at him, he looks, well, he looks like you. He sounds like you. He even has that little squeak in his right knee when he walks.

Help me, my love. When in this state we feel nothing but a kind of burning energy for one another. I don't know how long I can resist, although I continue to try.

We'll always have Parrots.

Camille

Kryten says:

Sniff - excuse me. Needless to say I'm utterly impartial, but it seems to me that this Hector person should keep his filthy tentacles to himself. Let him go back to his GELF hussy, Camille and come back toer this 'Kryten' you obviously love so much.

This is all so upsetting, far too upsetting. Next letter.

Dear Kryten

Should one keep ketchup (tomato variety) in the refrigerator or the larder? My marriage depends on this answer!!!

Kryten says:



Dear Kryten

It seems I have nowhere else to turn but this problem page. I hope you can help me where no-one else has been able.

Some time ago I discovered that my sexual powers were on the wain. I had found earth shattering ecstasy with a woman named Bev, but since we split up it seems I am no longer the irresistible creature I once was. In fact, to be accurate, since I was given the cold shoulder by one female at a convention last year I have been... unable to function at all. My once vast reputation is in tatters.

Should I resume relations with the divine Bev? Or else is there some kind of ointment you could recommend?

Yours limply

A.E.

Kryten says:

Er... Well, yes, by all means. Go back to Bev. Just never write to me again. My goodness doesn't anyone have a question about the finer points of lavatorial construction and installation - real problems is what I want! Ahh what's this I see....

Dear Kryten

Having recently purchased Crapola Inc's Talkie Toilet (TM) (Patent applied for) I was wondering if with your vast expertise in all things lavatorial you could advise on the best method of installation.

Obviously I have activated the necessary 818 voice chip, but how do I release the inhibitor on the B791 connector and allow correct sewage flow through the connecting valve?

Yours sincerely

Kryten 2X4P 523B

Kryten says:

What a fascinating problem! My only response would be to suggest -

What's that Mr Lister? Of course they won't know I wrote it - I swapped around the letters of my name. It's fool-proof.

That's a very good point Mr Rimmer - if Mr Lister spotted it - then it obviously isn't fool-proof.

Smeee

I resign.... someone else can take over next issue.

Next issue *Confidence and Paranoia* will feature Space Corps navigation officer **Kristine Kochanski**. Questions - particularly those concerning designer clothes and the need to eject sanitation mechanoids out of air-locks - can be sent to the usual address (40 Pitford Rd, Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4QF)

COMPETITION PAGE

We've two - yes two - great competitions for you this issue. So put pen to postcard
- you've got to be in it to win it - I can't believe I just said that!

Competition 1

We have 5 signed copies of Robert Llewellyn's book *The Man on Platform 5* to give away. To win one of these simply answer the following question:

Who originally played the part of Kryten?

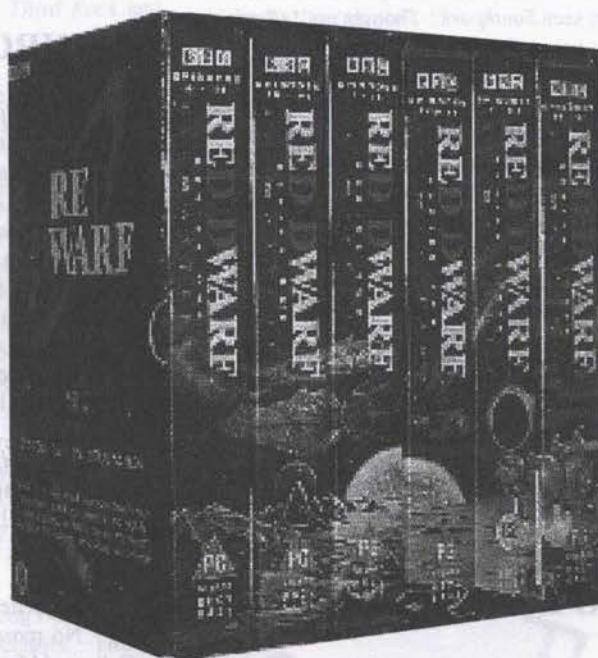
Tough one - mark your postcard 'David Ross was the first actor to play Kryten competition'

Competition 2

Secondly, we have a boxed set of the first three series of *Red Dwarf* - totally remastered. A super prize by the BBC. So if you'd like £70 worth of *Red Dwarf* video absolutely free - answer this super-tough question for a chance:

Who was the director of the first three series of *Red Dwarf*?

Mark your postcard Ed Bye Competition.



RULES

1. Answers accepted only on postcards (or stuck down envelopes)
2. Each different competition entry on a separate postcard.
3. Don't put loads of postcards in an envelope!!!!

Send your answers (on a postcard only) to: 40 Pitford Rd, Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4QF.
To reach us before 1 February 1999.

POST POD

Another day, another Post Pod. If you have a thought or theory on anything - or something you need to get off your chest - or just irritate other people - Post Pod is the place for you. Send your letters to: 40 Pitford Rd, Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4QF. Or E-mail us at coups@mcmail.com. Your letter may be edited.

US/OZ TOO!!

I thought I'd write to *Post Pod* to tell everyone that there are such things as American and Australian fans! I for one am and a new member of this mag (Aussie of course) and I love it but I wish it was easier for us to be involved in things. I would die to have gone to *Dimension Jump '98* but it was a bit difficult as it is in England. Will Chris Barrie or Danny John-Jules ever come to Oz to film a show? If only!!! I also wish people under 16 could attend screenings as I am mature as any other 16 or 17 year old. Over here we have a special VII series tape with the four episodes and over 50 smeg ups, the Rimmer munchkin song and the Cat's speech.

To anyone who bags *3rd Rock from the Sun* out there - go crash into an asteroid. I used to think *3rd Rock* was the best show ever until I watched *RD* - but some American shows are funny! Have you lot ever seen *Southpark*? Thought not!! (Bev: Er - yes we have!)

I've seen most *RD* episodes, but why when they show them on TV do they use the same start for every series? Gits and I hate the re-mastered bits in The End. They wiped the whole of McIntyre speech! They made it worse. Some website said Chris Barrie might not be in series VIII. Where do they get their information from?

Beam me up Scotty

Louisa Marks "Barric's Bride"

Bev: Chris wasn't in all of series VII - so the website obviously gets its info from very unreliable sources!

NO IMAGE DANCERS

I would just like to say that I never danced to an Altered Images record at my local disco in the 80's. My cousin was the local DJ and he hated Altered Images too. So there Mark Crombie!!

Adam Svenson

HANDS OFF RIMSEY

After reading the letter written by Bethany Jain Bradford in the last issue, I felt I must reply.

I think that many of the episodes based on Rimmer are very good and the reason there have been many episodes based around him is that he is a very major character. There have also been many episodes based on Lister, *Epideme* is one such example.

In series VII there was a lot about Rimmer because he was leaving the crew and he was an important character. There have been a few Ace Rimmer episodes because people enjoy the character. I think we should be asking for more Cat and Holly based episodes instead of just criticising the writers.

Thomas Linton

80'S THROWBACK

Say hello - Hello is it me you're looking for? Yep, it's a letter from the great pretender Paul Metcalfe - wave goodbye. Short letter? No! To cut a long story short I'm off backpacking around Asia and Australia - a land down under. But before I go I have a few words for Mark Crombie. You seem to be on a road to nowhere with your train of thought. If everyone who has been in *RD* is OK by you where does that leave Adolf Hitler?

If you go all around the world you will find there's no such language as Scandinavian so Ulrika Johnson can't speak that either.

Finally the internetters, let's have a new beginning. No more poison arrows or barbs. Call me old fashioned but it's easier to be friends, that way we can all live it up together and things can only get better.

Right it's time for me to beat it, I'm not really stuck in the 80's am I?

Paul Metcalfe

HEY - DWARFERS! LEAVE OUR KRISS ALONE!

That's right, gimboids! The title of this letter refers to those of you who like watching the series, but think very little of Ms Annett's acting. OK, maybe she plays the serious side of Kochanski - which Claire Grogan didn't get to do at all and she doesn't involve herself in any foreplay with Lister. (Bev: please tell me I wasn't the only one who tittered there?) But do you want my honest opinion? She is beautiful, more of a professional actress than Ms Grogan when it comes to being emotional and she certainly fits into Rimmer's place better than I expected. (And yes this letter's title is a rip-off of that line from *Pink Floyd's* Another Brick in the Wall. Funny isn't it?)

Norman Lovett returning as Holly? Smeg Off! Norm is as dull and gloomy as those wobbly sets from seasons I and II, whilst Hattie Hayridge was bright and sparkling in series III to V and Doug should be sent to Bay 47 for bringing Norman back instead of dear Hattie! Put politely, Holly, played by Norman, won't be compatible with the present crew in series VIII.

On the back of the original Ace Rimmer t-shirt one of the many numbers that is listed on the back is 081 811 8181 'Pronto'. This is also the phone number for *Live and Kicking* and other Saturday morning shows on CBBC. Is this all a coincidence, or did messers Grant and Naylor borrow it from them?

Toodle-pipski. Smoke me a new series of *RD* that's worth it!

Adam Fransella, Nodnol Thron

TRAVESTY

Has anyone else realised how brilliant the remarkable Chris Barrie is. I think it's a travesty that he isn't in more programmes. I think he's great.

C Barrie, Shepperton

SMEGMEISTER

I was mentioned twice in the last issue of *BTL*! Are you nuts? I was going to change my pen name for this issue. I can't now or you won't recognise my genius. "Ha!" I hear you...erm... Ha.

Thanks a bunch! Thanks a smegging buncheroonie! Ever since I opened that illusive brown paper envelope one word has been on mind - "Earth". All those sleepless nights waiting to tell me what on lo is going on. TELL ME NOW!!!

Do you think Cassandra will be the one where Cat gets his end away to a girl playing the title role? I do. And do you think Back in the Red will be the best one ever? Well, most people I know do!

290,450,000 people who saw Robert Llewellyn on the *Big Breakfast* will know what I mean. According to BBC Worldwide, that's how many people watched *Red Dwarf VII* globally - 290,450,000!! Gasp, faint, Cry with Joy!

Oi!! Where was the mega Smegissimo *Eye of the Storm*? I want names, I want places, I want dates. You can't print my letter saying how good it is without the bugger in the smegging magazine.

Poo to Shepperton Studios with knobs on. They won't let me in because I'm under sixteen. Who needs bloody insurance anyway? If anything happens - it happens. There's other goddamn studios.

Finally, does anyone else loathe the mega smeggy *Only Fools and Horses*?

Ian the Smegmeister

Bev: It's called picking up the wrong comic strip by mistake - we're very sorry - but look it's in this issue!!

TIP OF THE DAY

Don't play the *Red Dwarf* drinking game during the all-series marathons on UK Gold. It makes your head feel like a combination of *Justice* and *The Last Day* - know what I mean?!

Of course it gives you an excuse to watch them again the next day though.

Chris B

LLEWELLYN BREKKIE

I loved the suggestion last issue about Chloe's fans being called Chloettes was great. I think any man would agree that Chloe is far better than a soft mint chew.

Did anyone else see Rob Llewellyn on the *Big Breakfast* talking about his new book a few weeks ago? It was early morning and I wasn't focusing that well even though Robert was on screen but I'm sure he said that he had sold the film rights for a six figure sum! Is this true or was I dreaming? If it is true, what about Robert paying for *DJ '99* at the Ritz for everyone and maybe I could afford it. What about it Robert? (Bev: Nice idea - but you'd still get people moaning that it was too far for them to travel) I'm going to buy your book - so maybe you owe me one? No? Oh ok! Hurumph! It's no fun being a poor student.

I'm off down the dog track - nice meeting you.

Paul Carnell

YAWNARAMA?

I know a lot of people have written in to say this, but what the hell! I love *Red Dwarf* - but I also like *Third Rock* and definitely like *Friends*!

Ok let's get to the centre of my letter, the lovely bubbly, warm, fluffy cuddly part.

I love the remastered tapes. The CGI shots are brilliantly realistic - more than the old models which were very dull and boring. Improved sound and picture quality is nice, the new footage - e.g. Blue Midget's legs and the Lister/Rimmer body chase in *Body Swap* are so funny and much more exiting than the originals.

The new title screens are good to, better than the yawnarama-city original ones. I like the end credits too, but not for the same reason, especially the *Backwards* one.

Well I blabbered for so long Bev will have to get a new pair of scissors. There's probably not enough left worth printing now.

Elvis, I mean, I, have left the building.

Jay Sloan

AND I'M UNANIMOUS IN THAT

I have just heard a disgusting, I repeat, disgusting rumour, that in *Red Dwarf VIII*, they're going to use the *Red Dwarf* and *Blue Midget* from the remastered episodes - not the originals. Okay, the originals may not be as fancy as the ones from the remastered episodes. Okay, the original *Red Dwarf* wasn't as long. Okay, the original *Blue Midget* didn't have those legs. But they're the ones we're used to.

Come on, what about you people who were there when the very first episode of *Red Dwarf* was shown ten years ago. I mean, wouldn't you miss the old *Red Dwarf* and *Blue Midget*? I think if this rumour is true the fan club should get all of the members to sign a petition and stop it.

James Trotter

Bev: Of course this rumour is true, this is why the remastered videos were made - to give every series the same look.

HOW ABOUT THIS?

OK, so here I go, trying to write a letter with Bev's help (from last issue) so that it might (ha!) get printed.

Originality?! No, I don't have that! No I'm not interesting either, so what, ah thought provoking. I'll have a go at that and see if it works (bet it doesn't) well, here we are...

Nope nothing, well better luck next time Gemma.

Gemma Williams

PodPost PodPost PodPost

TREK AND DWARF??

This is my first attempt to muscle in on the *Red Dwarf* stronghold that is the *BTL Post Pod*. For over a year I've puzzled over the ramblings of the assorted contributions and have decided it's time to make a few enemies and detract attention from Ellard and Fouldes!

I like *Star Trek* and *Red Dwarf*! And *Babylon 5*, *Star Wars* (especially the computer games) and *Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy*.

I don't like the new CGI Starbug, although the rest of the computer special effects are great. But what I really want to know is, 3 million years after humans became extinct, who is the DJ on Jazz FM? What does Kryten pick up and where's it from? Is there a group of mechanoids mixing tunes in the depths of *Red Dwarf* - ah that's what Spare Hand 1 does in his leisure time ("Aye lad, this is me Spare 'Ed 3 with the Spare Hand 1 on tha' decks - now for ah bitty slipmatt or Sy, eh SH1 lad?")

Okay, I'm outta here - that ought to ensure Global Thermonuclear War for an issue or two!

Mike Raven

IS HE A PUPPET?

When you see William Hague in the House of Commons, watch his right knee go up and down!

John Carney



GRIM UP NORTH

It was reet nice to get t'latest copy of *Better Than Life* through t'post yesterday. I reckon t'next M J Fouldes is going to be that young lad from Wales, Kris Carter, who with not one or two but foo-er letters, one interview and a comic strip seems to 'ave written t'whole magazine. Ne'er mind, Kris me lad, I'm not complaining 'cos I enjoyed it all. Hope tha's A Levels were okay.

I hope you can read my Yorkshire accent alright. I like many other members of this wonderful fan club am celebrating my accent. No, I don't talk quite like that but I do come from the very alive and kicking county of Yorkshire (thank you Oxford English Dictionary, but we're not *former*) and up 'ere where I live we say bus with a u rather than an a and grass as in fast. And we're proud of it. Well done to Kris and the others for sticking up for the Welsh because that's the other half of me. I pride myself on being able to do the Ll sound - here's a hint try putting your tongue against the roof of your mouth and blowing and talking at once. It's like a sort of 'fl' or 'thl' or even a 'cl' sound all mixed up together. (By the way, even my Welsh grandma can't do that noise properly.)

Last Monday I was in heaven for an hour, when the wonderful BBC began a repeat of series 1 - remastered! I love the new music, especially when the Cat appears for the first time and I also think the new *Red Dwarf* is a fabulous piece of model engineering (please don't tell me it's CGI?) Then I giggled my little head off at the A-Z. Oh and here's a useless piece of trivia - Patrick Stewart (Capt Picard) is an associate actor in the Royal Shakespeare Company. What did he act? A tree? The

balcony in *Romeo and Juliet*? I apologise to Patrick and other Trekkies, but I hate *Star Trek* and I find Mr Stewart's acting rather wooden - although to give him some credit, I have seen worse.

Here's a question to start the ball rolling. Why does no-one ever recognise Batman or Superman when they're being Bruce Wayne or Clark Kent? Surely everyone knows that a pair of glasses doesn't disguise you very well at all? Is there a proper scientific reason out there somewhere?

I'll sign off with my proper name - just to be original. Love and stuff.

Joanne Harris

Bev: You're not fooling anyone with that blatantly made up name!! Yorkshire - best place on the planet (not that my family ancestry makes me biased!)

TIP FOR ANOTHER DAY

Don't go into a 'proper' bookshop and ask for a book by Robert Llewellyn, because they'll only look at you blankly and send you to the wrong section. Must be all the boring stuff they read all the time that inhibits the 'good book' info.

Chris B

THE 1%ERS

Well Karen Blicher how old are you then? Do you tick the 30-40 box or the 40-50 box on those terrible questionnaires (or do you lie?)

I am another of that frighteningly small 1% of "older adults" who love *Red Dwarf*, but I'm afraid I don't use computer keyboards. Pen and paper is good enough for me. Perhaps I'm even older than you - but I'm certainly not past it. "Nudge, nudge, wink, wink, say no more, know what I mean?" (If you understand that reference, you are a child of the 60's like me.)

I sent for tickets to see the filming of *RD VIII* - I wasn't fussy about dates - I failed - aaagh! I hope you lucky bastards who get to go appreciate it, its not fair!

Sue the oldster and Rimmette

NIT AWAY

Nit-picking - what harm does it do?

Let's face it, nit-picking doesn't detract from *RD*, in fact it may even add something. After all you can't help wondering what was taken out of Lister the first time if Legion removed his appendix (I'm assuming that was his appendix, any doctors out there?)

I'm certain that nit-pickers ask these questions just to hear the ludicrous answers. You also have to respect their knowledge of *RD*. I don't notice these things unless they're pointed out. Nit-pickers are just having a laugh (a unique laugh - but a laugh nonetheless) which is what *RD's* about anyway.

Point made.

China

Bev: What harm does it do? Takes up too much space in Post Pod that's what! China's letter seems to have been the only one we received on the side of nit-picking whereas we've received loads loathing it. Of which these are just a handful....

KILL 'EM ALL

I'm glad someone spoke out against nit-picking in the last issue of *BTL*. Just enjoy the programme - sit back and be entertained!

The Flintstones - we all happily watch it but do we moan that dinosaurs had died out before man came on the scene? Do we pick holes in the fact that they had modern day appliances and had jobs? No of course we don't because it's *only* a cartoon. It's fun, it's not serious? When you watch *Friends* do you think 'how could that possibly happen, that clearly contradicts what happened in series one episode 2" - no you don't. When watching *Bottom* - you watch a man hitting another man around the head with a frying pan, stabbing him in the eye with a pencil, chainsawing his legs off or pushing him out the window - do you turn off because the man *never* dies? No of course you don't - it's slapstick. Would Alan Partridge ever get a job on TV? Of course he wouldn't.

I could go on, but I should think even Lister would have got the gist of it by now. Well maybe not, but you never know.

I watch *Red Dwarf*, because it is a brilliant comedy, it really makes me laugh, it makes every one I know laugh - and that really is good enough for me. The first time I came into contact with some nit-pickers was at a *Dimension Jump* a couple of years ago and I've got to say every time they mentioned something they had this smug little look on their faces as if they were far superior to the show itself. "Of course if I'd written that episode - that would never have happened" has *actually* been said to me by a nit-picker who couldn't understand why everybody around him burst out laughing.

There's a hologram on board (*yes no problem I can accept that*), there's a man who's descended from cats (*not a problem mate*), there's a man who's been in Stasis for 3 million years (*seen it on Star Trek it must be true*) and a robot who has his programming broken to become more human (*of course - happens all the time*). You accept all of this quite happily?

Let's face it, the programme's a comedy with a spacey element. It's there to entertain us. But if I have to answer this seriously, I have this answer:

Red Dwarf is set in the future and seeing as we don't know what'll happen in the future or what it'll be like - we cannot criticise things that haven't happened yet.

Knowing full well that the nit-pickers will now be picking nits with this letter.

Steve Bellgrove

I CAME BACK

All I can say is that I didn't renew my membership after the *BTL* that featured 20 pages of nitpicking a few years ago. To think *BTL* had sunk that low. Luckily I saw a friend's copy 9 months ago and I'm now a member again. I love the new style *BTL*.

Rachel Simpson

Bev: Glad to have you back on board Rachel.

SERIES VIII - WHEN?

Please put me out of my misery - when is it coming out on the television? I'm gagging for it!!

Desperate Girl

EATON'S CHRIMBO

I'm dreaming of a Red Christmas - just like the one *BTL* gives to me.

It's corny I know, but by the time you read this *BTL* it'll be nearly Chrimbo.

Did everyone have a good time at *DJ '98*? Unfortunately I couldn't make it due to a hospital appointment, but I promise to go next year.

Big big thanks for printing my letter last issue, I've been a bit ill this year and on this particular day I'd been sent home from work in some pain and feeling a bit depressed only to find *BTL* on the door mat with letters in from me. Thank you.

Hopefully by the time this goes to print I should be fighting fit and ready to party.

Hope you all had a good one.

Paul Eaton

p.s. Is that mistletoe you're standing under
Bev (oo-er!)

Bev: Unfortunately not, I gave that up long ago - only the dog likes kissing me and then only if he has a mouthful of dog food. Glad to hear from you Paul - hope you're feeling better.

IT'S CHRISTMAS

That's right - it's nearly Christmas - time to get out and dust off my two annual festive gags - 1. Father Christmas and his bulging sacks! and 2. Anyone for stuffing?

Ho ho ho!

Blue Midget
(no reference to anything)

PodPost PodPost PodPost

IT'S STILL CHRISTMAS

I would just like to wish everybody in the fan club - in whatever country you're in a very happy Christmas. If you don't celebrate Christmas - then a very happy end of December - wherever you all are.

I hope everyone had a brilliant time at *Dimension Jump* - you lucky lot!

Rebecca Thomas

COOL YULE

I hope that all the fan club members have a really Smeggy Christmas and a Smegtastic New Year.

That sounds quite horrible doesn't it? Have a great time anyway.

Ben Walker

TRAVESTY (RPT)

Has anyone else noticed that the ever-popular Danny John Jules is still playing the Cat. I think he should be playing Rimmer as Danny is such a versatile actor and could bring a lot to the part.

D John-Jules, Shepperton

NEW BOY ALERT

I'm new to the club so please be gentle with me. I think I'm mentally confused (no, really!) I obviously like *Red Dwarf*, but I like *Friends*, is there something wrong here?

I'm a Smeggie but also a Trekkie. As a contrast has anyone heard of an amateur *Red Dwarf* script on the internet called *Red Dwarf meets Star Trek: The Next Generation*. I don't know the author but I find it to be quite amusing even though it takes loads off the earlier series such as Cat's "What is it?" speech, only about the Enterprise's Holodeck and not the radiation leak. There's loads of things wrong with it, but with a little work, this script could be tickety-boo in no time!

Toodle Pipski

Adam Smegfish Crolla

TRAVESTY (AGAIN)

Has anyone else noticed how unfair Grant Naylor Productions are to Robert Llewellyn. All the other cast members get to wear normal clothes, but poor Robert has to wear a heavy mask, which he can't breathe in properly and can't eat whilst wearing.

I think Robert's wages should be tripled.

R Llewellyn, Shepperton

ANOTHER TIP FOR ANOTHER DAY

Don't learn to play the accordion, because you'll feel an overwhelming compulsion to play it in public - this could be fatal. If you do play the accordion already: congratulations on surviving long enough to read this message.

Chris B

HERE'S A THING

I am sorry but I am writing in to point out something which may upset a lot of people.

Basically, the whole idea behind the Able part of *Beyond A Joke* is wrong, as far as I can see. Cast your minds back to the episode Kryten from series II. As you should remember (if not watch it NOW!) the original Kryten looked very different from the Kryten we all know and love today. Lister rebuilt Kryten when he had an accident on his space bike. So, no other mechanoid should look like the Kryten played by Robert Llewellyn (including Able) and our Kryten is not based on ugly John, as he is original and not the same as he was first built.

To put it another way, Professor Mamet designed the Kryten played by David

Ross. Him and the other Krytenes which look like him are based on Jon, a pompous, ridiculous looking, mother hen clucking, irascible buffoon. But as Lister rebuilt Kryten, he no longer looks like this and should not be the same as any other androids. Does anybody understand me?! Am I missing something, or is this a cock-up?

Thank you for your time

Jenny Goodall



MIXING THE CHRISTMAS CAKE, KRYTEN REALISED THAT HE HAD LEFT HIS GROWAL WHISK SET ON 'HIGH'.

©A. PILLARD

OI, MOANERS - NO!

Hello fellow Dwarfers I'm just writing to *Post Pod* to say "aaaaaaaaaaaaaargh." The reason I'm saying this is because I'm sick of people writing letters saying how bad the new re-mastered videos are, and they are total rubbish. If I hated the new re-mastered episodes of *Red Dwarf* (which I don't) then I would not write in saying how bad they are, I honestly wouldn't! So why should all of you? OK, so you don't like the new *RD* ship, you don't like the new CGI look, you don't like the fact that some dialogue has been removed, well fine, keep it to yourselves then, just keep your old ones and crawl back under your stones. I, for one, think that the new *RD* re-mastered is brilliant, smegtastic, the new *RD* ship, the new CGI images I even think the front of the video picture is brilliant. People only want to hear positive thoughts about the new re-mastered *RD*, so all you negative people get lost!

And finally. Will people stop writing in complaining about mistakes on various *RD* shows. For example in the last issue of *BTL* a certain Richard Jackson wrote into *Post Pod* saying that he had spotted a mistake in Rimmer's fourth line of episode 3 of series 5. (Bev: Er - no he didn't.) You sad smeg head! He actually knew which line that Rimmer made a mistake. I mean by the time he had sat there working out the mistake and counted which line it was - he'd have missed most of the show.

Red Dwarf is a comedy/drama sci-fi which is created for our enjoyment, so who smegging cares about a minor little mistake. I'd like to see you lot creating a comedy sci-fi with no mistakes! If it's a big mistake such as half of Starbug was missing, then maybe it should be pointed out, but not a mistake such as Lister having his appendix out twice! Just please enjoy a mistake such as Lister having his appendix out twice! Just please enjoy *Red Dwarf*, don't make it out to be a crap show!

Wow it's amazing what a whinging 15 year old lad can do. Well I'll go back to my sad life and I may as well end my letter the way I started it - "Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaargh!"

John Bond (not 007!)

Bev: John - go and read Richard's letter again - carefully! Richard was saying exactly the same as you - you smeghead! You and Richard are on the same team - as it were - if he's speaking to you now that is.

HOW MUCH?!

Whilst on a massive shopping trip to Lakeside Shopping Centre in Thurrock this week, in one of the shops they had a whole load of autographed photographs of various famous people. Two of which were *RD* characters - Danny John-Jules and Hattie Hayridge. I am sure a lot of *RD* fans out there have autographs from the cast so I thought you would like to know that these A4 six autographed photos were being sold for £70 each!

I thought I would also mention that I have belonged to the fan club for some time now and have always been very impressed with the efficiency and professionalism that you guys show. Brilliant magazine - always sent regularly (not like the *James Bond* Fan Club my husband belongs to - £25 per year for a magazine smaller than the *RD* one and never on time.) Well done to all!

Just one small point - in the last issue, Bay 47 had loads of spelling mistakes (I counted 27) Sean should obviously not be allowed out on his own!!

For the record (further to all the letters in various issues) I am also an avid *Star Trek* fan (*TNG* and *DS9*) and I quite like *Friends*, but then I also love Winnie the Pooh, think Dolly Parton is brill and own all of the Delia Smiths videos - quite sad really.

Anyway keep up the good work.

Rachel M Patterson (Mrs)

Bev: Why thank you very indeed. Poor Seanyloos. We suddenly realised as we were printing *BTL* - that Bay 47 hadn't been answered. So Sean promptly did it. Unfortunately Sean - being dyslexic - left the proof reading for me to do - and I forgot - so it's entirely my fault. Slapped wrists for me.

WHAT ABOUT ME?

With all this talk in recent issues of *BTL* of 'do we like *Friends* and *Third Rock From the Sun* or not' I thought I'd give my ten pence worth - and really put the cat amongst the pigeons (and any other Bros song you care to mention!)

I'm a *Red Dwarf* fanatic - nothing can beat it - it's the best thing on the telly. But I also have a dark secret because I also love *Ready Steady Cook* and *Frasier* - my two other favourite programmes - do I fit in with anyone else's *Red Dwarf* fan profile? Tell me I can't be the only one! I do hate *Third Rock From the Sun* and I also really hate Chris Evans - any closer?

Oh well I always knew I was different!

Byeeeeeee

Friendless Dwarfier

SO THERE!

This is in response to and congratulations for Andrew Morgan's letter about nit-picking *Red Dwarf*. Sure there are a few inconsistencies but the show is so good in it's entirety that my brother and I sit and discuss ways of rationalising away points that may look inconsistent. We think up explanations so that it's no longer inconsistent, just strange. Anyway, the fact its not perfect gives it charm.

I am American. I love *Red Dwarf*. *Red Dwarf* is clever, sceptical, cynical, ironic and witty. It does not insult my intelligence. It is depressing and funny. So you Pommy gits, don't judge us Yanks by the crap on our TV, we don't all watch it.

Anne Soderstrom

TRAVESTY (MK IV)

Has anyone else noticed that the multi-talented comedian Norman Lovett only gets seen from the neck up.

I think it's a travesty and that this wonderful entertainer should be given more exposure on *Red Dwarf*.

N Lovett, Shepperton

Post Pod

YET ANOTHER TIP FOR ANOTHER DAY

Get a life and stop reading these tips. Get a hobby or something, perhaps something socially and intellectually uplifting; like morris dancing.

Chris B

ELLARD'S OK!

Joanna Kennedy - are you on the same planet as the rest of us?

So you don't like Andrew Ellard? Big deal. I think you've missed the point with him - he's a really nice guy. I thought everybody realised his letters were humorous - if anyone out there has actually believed he's like that then I'm really saddened.

I've met Andrew loads of times - at *Dimension Jumps* and stuff - we've always got on really well, he's a funny guy - a top bloke as my friend calls him.

Sharron George

PENPAL POWER

I couldn't believe it when I read Helen Bates' entry in the new *Parallel Universe* section of *BTL*. I've been happy for days now, as I thought I was the only one - the only one in the whole wide world who thinks that Errol Brown is sooo cool and sexy. If you can bring yourself to drag your gaze just a little higher Helen (don't fret - only for a moment!) I think you'll find that Errol has got more than 'brilliant hip movements' in the form of the loveliest smile I've ever seen on a guy - apart from Rik Mayall.

I'd like to thank whoever it was in the Fan Club team who selected Donna's advert for penpals to be printed in *BTL* #19 of *BTL*. It's because of you that I've been having the time of my life this year, as I replied to that advert.

Last year Donna left the UK to come to work in Australia for 12 months and all because of little me! Luckily she lives close enough so that I can go up and stay with her on the weekends she's not working. Just because of that one little advert Donna and I have had so many fun weekends together. The first and last ones (she has to leave very soon) were the most exciting.

So for all those people out there wondering if they should respond to a particular penpal advert in *BTL* or not, go for it! Don't hold back, as just like me,

you won't know how much fun is waiting for you around the next corner until you venture forward.

Thanks once again *BTL* team, for introducing me to the bestest friend anyone could wish to have - you're all so wonderful. See you at *D-Jump*!

Poppett, Australia

p.s. I like whipped cream too.... a lot.

WHAT ON IO?

I just thought I'd write and inform you of a little bit of astronomical trivia I've just been reading about.

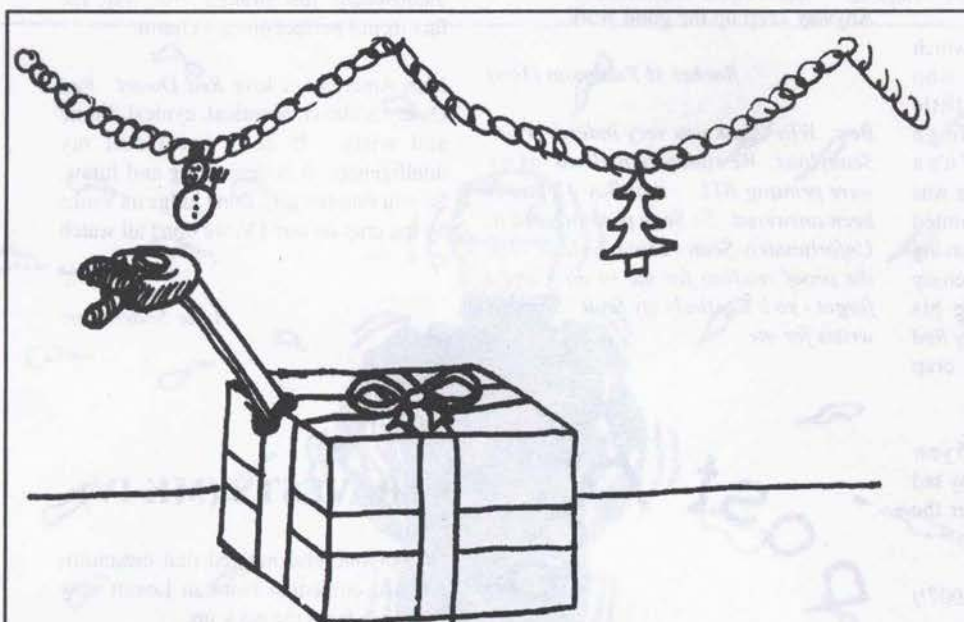
Did you know that apart from the Sun, the object with the highest surface temperature is in fact, Io? Actually, it's the volcanic hot spots that have the highest heat, with temperatures rising to 3,100 degrees Fahrenheit! That's about 3 times hotter than Mercury!

Now isn't that an interesting piece of information to wrap your head around at 20 to 1 in the morning.

May your path lead to wisdom and in wisdom know you peace.

Lots of love-N-Listers

Aileen McKerr



REMEMBER: A SKUTTER IS FOR LIFE,
NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS...

©A. FILARD

TRAVESTY (REPEAT TO FADE)

Has anyone noticed how badly treated the beautiful and (should be) award winning actress Chloe Annett is.

Grant Naylor should make an episode entirely round Kochanski with none of the other cast members involved except for cameo roles from Brad Pitt, Keanu Reeves, Leonardo De Caffeinated and most of Boyzone!

C Annett, Shepperton

REMASTERED - NO

Carolyn Lawson from Australia was so right with her comments in the last issue of *BTL* about the remastered *Red Dwarf*. I was devastated by the change in the first series. All the aspects I fell in love with in the first place have suddenly disappeared. Surely Rob Grant and Doug Naylor couldn't have agreed to the remastering. Come on *Dwarfers* you must agree with Carolyn and myself. Let's boycott the remastered version and demand the reinstatement of the original version. Out with the new in with the old.

Colin Emms

REMASTERED - YES

Hold your breath for I am writing in defence of the remastered videos - and I demand to be heard!

I have been a member of this fan club for nearly 2 years now and I think I may be one of the few people who had never actually seen the first series. So I think I am in a unique position to watch the remastered episodes and have an honest and unbiased opinion.

I watched the series 1 (remastered) on BBC2 when it was on recently and I loved it - it's just as good as any of the other series in my opinion. In fact my only complaint is that I missed Kryten. I then watched some episodes of series 1 (unremastered) and quite frankly they look very old and very 'flat' compared to the remastered ones. We must remember that *Red Dwarf* has been remastered to give the entire 8 series a uniform look for the American market (who have largely not seen our beloved dwarf.) These people will have nothing to compare their *Red Dwarf* to. It's a bit like cover versions - All Saints recently had a hit with *Under the Bridge*, it got to number one here in Britain and in Europe and probably Australia. This song was a cover version of a Red Hot Chilli Peppers song and everyone (without exception) who had heard the RHCP's version first hated the All Saints one. Yet people who hadn't heard the original bought it, loved it and probably didn't even know it wasn't an original song. Am I getting through to people yet?

I hate to be rude about fellow fan club members - but I can't believe so many of you have missed the point.

Steve Brent

FAN TOO

What is all the fuss about the remastered videos?

Could we all try looking at this from a different angle?

If you were trying to sell your programme to the biggest TV country in the world wouldn't you want it to have a good fighting chance of competing?

Would you honestly try and sell a science fiction-based programme that was made and looked ten years out of date? And then put it up against the American TV programmes? Er - no you wouldn't.

My older sister's favourite band (when she was younger) was the Osmonds. They were probably one of the biggest bands in the world in the seventies. If they were placed in Stasis and were let out now - do you think they'd be a huge popular band? Of course they bloody well wouldn't! *Red Dwarf* has had to update itself - for a country that hasn't yet seen it. Yes we all prefer the original versions - they're the ones we grew up with, we know inside out and we love to bits.

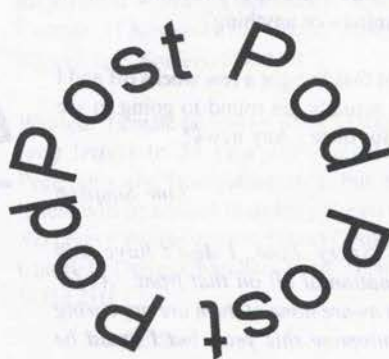
Think if you had to compete with your friends at work/school/college with only your knowledge/skill/maturity and fashion from ten years ago! Doesn't bear thinking about does it?

Steven R. Weller

D JUMP GREETINGS

Hello to everyone who attended this year's *Dimension Jump* in Liverpool. I think I probably walked into everyone of you or stood on your toes or spilt my drink on you. Very sorry. Great wasn't it?

Sarah Jane



GROANGAN

In my first few months, I've been thoroughly amazed how much you all hate Claire Grogan. I mean, I *knew* she wasn't the best actress in the multiverse, but surely, thought I, she wasn't *that* bad?

Then, I spotted her in *Altered Images* on *TOTP2* recently. There was Claire, blonde and prancing around with ribbons in her hair, singing *I Could be Happy*. My humblest apologies to anyone attempting to be a music fan in the '80s... the sound, as Doug Naylor once put it, was "music to emigrate to." Thank flip for Chloe Annett to bring the odd brain cell to the part.

I still love Chris Barrie - I love you Chris - and I tuned into *A Prince Among Men*. The reviewers last issue got it spot on - I knew the people playing Beverley and Sonia before and everybody was brilliant, but the total lack of decent plots wasn't helping. Oh I feel so guilty now - I'm sorry Chris, I'm eternally yours!

Unite Rimmerettes, we can convert the world!

Karen KK Kitching

STUPID INDEED

Greeting and hellos to everyone who's paying attention.

I'd like to introduce myself. I'm Cloister the (extremely) Stupid and I'd just like to ask a couple of questions that baffle me totally. So here goes...

Do you remember in the last issue when the lovely Craig Davies wrote "Return of the Smeghead"? Well I'd just like to ask him what on lo is a sherman tank?! Forgive me if I'm being thicker than the offspring of a village idiot and a TV weather girl, but I really don't have a clue.

Fourthly, how old is Rimmer? I think about thirty something, but don't trust my judgement, I don't even know what a Sherman thingy is!

Stupidity mode cancelled.

Cloister the Stupid

DIMENSION HI'S

Hi to everyone who went to the absolutely fab *DJ '98* and na na to those who didn't (not really.) Big waves to those who survived all the way through Saturday night. You know I'd been up more than 40 hours when I got to bed on Sunday night.

To those of you at the piano "for the sake of sanity someone please learn how to play and everybody pay attention to song lyrics so we'll know some next time!" And didn't Clayton look rough on Sunday morning ? Not that he was the only one (some people were still staggering - mentioning no names Se.... oh sorry.) Anyway I'll say bye now - I'm off to practice my coins and glass trick for next time I meet new people.

See *va.*

Fee (Fiona)

CHILD OF SATAN

Regarding the *Official Red Dwarf Companion*. I would just like to point out that under Special Guests it says "And really finally in *Quarantine* Mr Flibble appeared as himself."

However, if you look at the production credits at the back it says that in *Quarantine* Dr Hildegard Lanstrom was played by Maggie Steed, but no mention of Mr Flibble!!!

Now, I respectfully submit that Bruce Dessau be chopped into 6 pieces so that he can be put into Bay 47 six times, then his family be hunted down and tickled for spawning the evil child of Satan!!

Yours

Hilly

Bev: Get off the fence Hilly, tell us what you really feel. At last Post Pod gets back to addressing the real issues of Red Dwarf and deals with them in a mature and rational manner. More of them, I say!!

VIDEO NEEDS

Can someone tell me if you can still get hold of the original video tapes of *Red Dwarf* - as I still have two to get hold of?

Curly Shirley

D'OH

I need to get something off my bulging chest..... this bloody chest wig is so irritating.

Anyway last issue I was extremely excited to see tickets for series VIII were available. So being in unusually high spirits I sent off for these precious things and had every limb crossed.

Unfortunately I was unsuccessful - as the information had been up for some time on Robert Llewellyn's website.

I couldn't believe my luck. How gutting. Every time there has been a setback to see *Red Dwarf* being recorded.

Series VI - I was too young.

Series VII - No studio audiences

Series VIII - Tickets sold out on internet.

I am now receiving therapy and I don't
bare a grudge on the internet users....
honest.

Ta ta.

Darren Stevens

TRAVESTY!!

Has anyone noticed how Rimmer gets to snog loads of girls and Lister (the hunky hero) doesn't. It's a travesty! We should petition Grant Naylor so that the very lovely Craig gets to kiss far more girls.

C Charles, Shepperton

BIG BOYS IN BOOTS

There, now that I have your attention, I can begin my letter in earnest.

What are the cast of *Red Dwarf* doing for Christmas - are they working - or in pantomime - or anything?

It's just that I've got a few weeks off and I could actually get round to going to see them for once. Any news?

Jane Simpson

Bev: Sorry Jane, I don't have any information at all on that front. As far as I'm aware none of them are appearing in pantomime this year, but I could be wrong.

NON-CHRIS FANCIER

I'm writing because having now had 3 issues of BTL, I'm deeply concerned that there is something very wrong, nay, even amiss with my hormones. The thing is, that of the entire male crew of *Red Dwarf*, Rimmer, alias Chris Barrie is last on my scale of desirability, yes last. (Bev: *Can we just pause it here for several thousand females to re-read this last sentence and scream at you in disbelief?*)

Even Kryten would get a look in before him (although if I'm honest this probably has more to do with the length of his groinal attachment and clear mastery of egg whisks than with Robert's apposite features - not that I ever get characters confused with the actors who play them you understand. I wonder how much you can put in one set of brackets?) Why oh why do you other girls all fancy Chris and not Danny? Why aren't you all in *Ripley's Believe it or Not*? Also, I thought Claire Grogan was a good Kochanski, and I like Chloe but I don't think Lister would go for that accent. I'm really pushing my luck now aren't I?

However, perhaps you will call off the lynch mob when I explain that I have been chronically ill with M.E. for 3 years and perhaps my taste has become addled. *Red Dwarf* has brightened up some very dark times recently and it's the best programme ever. I may have just been through a very painful divorce and be too ill to work, or more importantly to go to Dimension Jump or filming, but at least I'm not stranded on an ice planet 3 million years into deep space with only Rimmer and his perpetually looped tape of Reggie Dixon for company and only dog food and bonjela on the menu. Yes that does make me feel better.

*Keren Dibbens (this is my real name,
not an anagram of anything)*

PodPost PodPost PodPost

PENPALS

BALANCE OF POWER

Female Chris Barrie fan seeking other Chris Barrie fans. Jennifer Hunter, 2362 CR 284, Auxvasse, MO 65231, USA.

A pathetic sad smeghead looking for a 12 to 14 yr old female to write to me. I've suffered 14 yrs of utter boredom and am looking for a bit of excitement. I'm a male and 14, please gamble your sanity and write to me. I'm known as Simon Taylor, but you can call me Smeghead. Simon Taylor, 2 All Saints Way, Aston, Sheffield, S26 2FJ. I'm interested in anything and don't care what you're interested in.

21 year old looking for people with great senses of humour, cos I'm really dull. Let's bond over *RD* and find out what else we have in common. I'm a wannabe actress/singer who loves to laugh! If you saw *Men in Black*, *Titanic* and the *Indiana Jones* trilogy and loved them all, write to me. We'll get along great. Warning: I will gush about Chris Barrie if given the chance. Julie Takeuchi, 937 W 17th Ave, Vancouver, BC V5Z 1U5, Canada

13 year old Dwarfie looking for a penpal aged 12 - 14. I like *RD*, *Bottom*, *Mr Bean*, *Friends*, *Brittas Empire*, Nintendos and Playstations. Please write sharpish to: Scott Murray, 52 Morven Crescent, Findochty, Buckie, Moray, AB56 4QL

Mr sad, lonely American git would like pen pals to spend time smegging out with. Despite having 55 channels of viewing would much rather spend time with Lister and Rimmer. My hobbies include penpalling, following English footie, watching *RD*, *Ab Fab*, *Are you Being Served* etc. If this interests you please send letters to: Chris Grindstaff, 634 Chestnut Avenue, Richland, Washington 99352-3634 US of A.

11 yr old male looking for a female mad person from 0-100000. I'm Anthony (don't laugh) Beer. I love *RD*, *X Files*, *WWF*, *Bottom*, *The Young Ones*. Reply guaranteed. Anthony Beer, 45 Trebarry Crescent, Rumney, Cardiff, CF3 8SO

We're 3 good looking lads: Chris, Mark & Dave, aged 16. We're looking for intelligent & humorous females aged 15+. Replies 100% guaranteed, so write to us at: 1 Shadforth Close, Peterlee, Co Durham SR8 2NG

Lively 13 year old smeghead seeks male or female, aged 13-15 for laugh and chat. I like Formula 1, obviously *RD*, most music, especially Prodigy and Blur, sports, *Bottom*, having a laugh, great parties etc. Don't bother writing if you don't LOVE *Friends*! Apart from that I will answer all letters. Write to: Fiona Eccleston, 36 Danesway, Walton-le-Dale, Preston, Lancs PR5 4UQ

20 year old looking for penpals of any age/sex. I'm completely obsessed with anything to do with *RD*. I'm also into *Star Trek* (especially *Voyager*), *Bottom*, most Sci-Fi, UFOs, the paranormal. Will reply to all letters. Write to Piran Broadbelt, 15 Lower Hill Barton Rd, Exeter, Devon EX1 3EJ

WANTED: A penpal of any age/sex/location for a 15 year old mad girl who loves talking *RD*, talking and er. *RD*. You get the picture, then get writing. All letters will be answered. Laura Stapleton, 119 Grindon Crescent, Bulwell Hall, Nottingham, NG6 8BT

13 year old male looking for male/female aged between 12-14. Apart from *RD*, I'm really into Richard O'Brien, *The Crystal Maze*, *Shock Treatment* and his other films. I will reply to all letters. Jack Templeton, 8 Corporation Rd, Carlisle, Cumbria CA3 8XB.

19 year old film student seeks penpals, male or female, to discuss all things Dwarfian. I love Chris Barrie, *Bottom*, *Brittas*, *Crime Traveller* and Harry Enfield. My pastimes include watching paint dry, collecting cute bugs from souvenir shops and hurling abuse at the television whenever the single currency is mentioned. Joanna Kennedy, Rock Cottage, 31 Kewstoke Rd, Worle, Weston Super Mare, Somerset BS22 9JY

Wanted: Female penpals willing to write long letters to 25 year old smegster. Preferably the Hampshire area, but all letters will be replied to as long as you're *RD* crazy! Please write to David Cook, 4 Clanfield Drive, Chandlers Ford, Hants, SO53 2HJ

Hi there, Sean calling from planet fab pants. I guess all the news and goss is from *Dimension Jump 98*. A big hello to all you jumpers out there (not the woolly type, the groovy type). We really enjoyed your company over the weekend and had a fabulous time. From the positive feedback we have had from you it seems that the feeling is mutual. I know that our guests had a good time and you made them feel really welcome.

A special thanks to Helen Norman her son Patrick, husband David and dog Grouse. Also to Fiona, Lilly and Kitty Norman and Jackie and Anna Jo. Of course I can't leave out the cast who, as usual, made the weekend a great success. Also long live the King- T hanks Clayton.

There always comes a short period of time after the weekend where, we the organisers wonder if it was all worth it, then we get your letters of support. You answer our worries - "yes it bloody well was" you cheer in resounding harmony.

I'm just off to the last days recording of series VIII - things are hotting up. Just think series VIII will be on our screens next year aaaahhh!!!! (Exited childish scream.)

All that remains for me to say is have a lovely Xmas and New Year. See you in 1999, where apparently according to some sources we will be living in space and partying!

Over and out of toilet paper

Sean

PS: I have just got back from the last day's filming of Series VIII. It was a great evening. We were treated to some impromptu stand-up by both Craig and Norman and saw some possible future smeg-ups.

I am not here to give anything away, all I will say is that the gags are back (not that they really went away) with a vengeance. I laughed like a very happy man who has just found something funny to make him very happy - if you know what I mean?

SEAN

MERCHANDISE

BETTER THAN LIFE

BACK ISSUES

(those not listed are NOT available)

ALL BTL BACK ISSUES: £3

Issue 11: Letters from GN Productions and Danny John-Jules, Season 6 special. Worst BTL cover ever!

Issue 12: Rimmer issue, cover artwork by Colin Howard, 3 Chris Barrie interview, Red Dwarf sex test.

Issue 15: Last Human reviews, cast and Rob & Doug cover, Craig Charles interview & letter, Robert Llewellyn interview, Plot Inconsistencies Project.

Issue 16: Craig Charles cover, Chris Barrie tour reviews, Danny John-Jules in the USA, Fiction special.

Issue 18: Rob Grant cover and interview talking about 'Backwards', poll results, Hattie in Australia.

Issue 19: Colour cover. Dimension Jump special featuring reviews, photos, Rimmer/Flibble poster - loads of stuff.

Issue 21: Glossy Ace & Bonjela cover, Lister of Smeg back. Fantastic new look/Editor RDVII special review, RD survival test, Dave Lister on Ricki Lake, Lennon & McCartney fun strip (oo-err!)

Issue 22: Glossy Cat and Kryten cover, interview with Hattie Hayridge, Danny John-Jules in Australia, Craig and Robert in America

Issue 23: Glossy Craig and Chloe at DJ'97 cover, Red Dwarf all-series poll results, DJ '97 report

Issue 24: Great colour cover, reports of the 10th anniversary filming, a look back at the 10 years of Red Dwarf, the RD drinking game and loads of other stuff too.

Issue 25: Glossy Chloe cover. Red Dwarf night reviewed, Red Dwarf survival guide - and loads more.

Issue 26: Glossy Series VIII news, Danny & Craig in the US, Interview with Mel Bibby.

BEST OF BTL Vol. 2

All the best bits of BTL issues 5,6 and 7 - 48 smeg-packed pages! Interviews, articles, find out what was going on all those years ago! Great value at only **£3**

BTL 1 REMASTERED

Go back in time to the very first issue of BTL Limited edition. **£2**

BTL 2/3 REMASTERED

Issues 2 was so late coming out that issue 3 came out with it in one volume. If you think BTL's are late now you should have been a member when these two came out originally. Limited Edition **£2.50**

BTL 4 REMASTERED

Issue 4 of Better Than Life. Limited Edition **£2.50**

ALL THREE OF THE ABOVE

£6

FAN FICTION

36 pages of the very best of Red Dwarf fiction - written by you the fans!! Including a story by Philippa Drakeford (along with illustrations!), Andrew Ellard, American fans Karen Blicher and Diane Tucker and many more. Come on support your fellow fan club members - or why not try your hand at writing yourself - your story or artwork (or both) may end up in volume 2.

£3

FAN FICTION #2

The second volume of fan fiction. Launched recently at Dimension Jump. Included are stories, artwork and comic strips - by you, members of the fan club.

£3

MUGS

The Rimmer Experience

With the immortal lines "I've been on the Rimmer Experience - and didn't throw up!" including a fabulous picture of the Experience doors.

£5

Fan Club Mug

The old faithful itself. Still hanging in there - and probably always will be. You know you need one.

£5

We also have a new mug - on the next page!

RED DWARF KITBAG

The grooviest bag any Smeghead needs!! Made of super-tough material - its red, it's fab, it's trendy, it's very durable, it has our logo on it and it's

£8

RED DWARF WALLETS

One of the best selling items at last year's Dimension Jump convention. A red wallet with the logo on. Quite simply the best place a loyal smeghead can keep his or her money. And a great price too.

£4

RED DWARF STATIONERY SETS

Twenty sheets of Red Dwarf writing paper - A4 size, with 10 envelopes in a Red Dwarf folder.

£4

+NEW++ NEW++

Full colour Postcard

From Ouroborus, featuring Lister, Cat and Kryten. Formerly only available in Australia. Limited edition.

£1

MERCHANDISE

+NEW + + NEW+

T-Shirts

Smeg Happens

(Black T-Shirt with yellow print - yellow smiley face with 'H')

All the cast managed to get one each - and wear them to the autograph session at this year's Dimension Jump.) Craig Charles' favourite Red Dwarf T-Shirt.

Sizes: M L XL

I've Been On The Rimmer

Experience

(Black T-Shirt with silver print)

Slogan: "I've been on the Rimmer Experience - and didn't throw up! With picture of the Rimmer Experience. Up until now only available at Dimension Jump weekends. Finally available to the fan club.

Sizes: M L XL

Kryten - "Ketchup!"

(Black T-Shirt with red print)

The winner of our design a T-Shirt competition. Kryten's face with "Ketchup!" underneath.

Sizes: M L XL

All T-Shirts 100% cotton

£8.50

10th ANNIVERSARY MUGS

(very limited)

At Dimension Jump we had a supply of thermacoated 10th anniversary Red Dwarf mugs - that become colour when hot water is put in the mug. We have a very very limited supply of these left. First come, first served.

£6

+++BACK IN STOCK+++

STARBUG BUMPER STICKER

"My other car is Starbug" colour sticker. After how many years away? **£3**

+NEW + + NEW+

RED DWARF PENCIL CASES

Launched at this year's Dimension Jump - and very popular, black pencil cases with Red Dwarf logo on. Selling fast.

£3

GREETINGS CARDS (LAST CHANCE TO BUY - NO LONGER BEING PRODUCED)

20 DESIGNS ONLY (SOME VERY LIMITED)

1. SMEGHEAD
2. Lister (Spacemumps) Get well Soon
3. Rimmer Wanted Dead or Ok Dead
4. Kryten Wanted Armed and Completely Useless
5. Crew - One Gunman short of a Posse
6. Crew - Boyz from the Dwarf
7. Crew (cockpit photo)
8. Crew Present from the future
9. Crew Dwarf Posse
10. Cat - Somethings coming
11. Duane Dibby
12. Lister Let's Get Out there & Twat it.
13. Starbug
14. Rimmer I've come to think of you as someone I've met
15. Kryten binary code saying.
16. Kryten - Jake Bullett
17. Future Cat King of Cool
18. The Inquisitor You've been judged unworthy
19. Kryten & Rimmer - The Reverse Brothers would like to say... YADHTRIB YPPAH
20. Rimmer Captain Sadness

£1.25 each or 5 for £5

(If a card is out of stock we will substitute it for another card)

WHEN ORDERING MERCHANDISE PLEASE CAN YOUR ORDER BE ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER TO EVERYTHING ELSE YOU SEND IN. WE CANNOT PROCESS YOUR ORDER IF IT IS ON A POST POD LETTER OR A RENEWAL FORM (YES SOME DINGBAT HAS DONE THAT!!). ALSO PLEASE ENCLOSE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON YOUR ORDERS - WE CANNOT GUESS YOUR ADDRESS BY YOUR HANDWRITING ALONE.

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See you next issue!

LISTINGS

The Official Red Dwarf Fan Club is happy to advertise any clubs or conventions worldwide which may be of interest to readers of BTL. We offer this free of charge but appreciate reciprocal advertising for both the fan club and its own conventions. We carry adverts up until the issue before the convention is run and club adverts are run indefinitely.

Steev's handmaidens survey all the advertisers at regular intervals to help us keep this list up to date. If a name is dropped then you should assume the club no longer exists, or doesn't respond to mail very quickly.

CLUBS

BRITISH COMEDY

APPRECIATION SOCIETY

News, reviews & interviews of past, present & future heroes of comedy. Details of who's on where and who's doing what in our quarterly magazine 'Laughter Lines'. For details please send SAE to: BCAS 1A Woodbury, Castle Road, Woking, Surrey GU12 4ET or phone 01483 726868

CRAIG CHARLES

Official Craig Charles Fan Club. PO Box 10972, London SE11 5ZE.

DANNY JOHN-JULES

Official DJJ Fan Club. EM & MGilbert, 73a Cressex Rd, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 4PS

TONY HANCOCK

APPRECIATION SOCIETY

Self explanatory really. Contact: President (Bernard Holland), 46 Queens Rd, Hazel Grove, Stockport SK7 4HZ

MAGENTA MAGAZINE

Rocky Horror Show fanzine produced in Australia £2.50 + 8 IRC's for 4 issues. Membership forms will be sent if an IRC is sent with enquiries. Magenta Magazine, Claire Douglas, 3 Alexandra Esplanade, Bellerive, TAS 7018, Australia.

MORECAMBE & WISE FAN CLUB

In appreciation of the tall one with the glasses & the one with the short fat hairy legs. Celebrity members include: Ben Elton, Elton John, Victoria Wood and Hale & Pace. For more info, send S.A.E. to Co President, Miss Lee Ormiston, 18 Lochend Drive, Edinburgh

PRYDONIANS OF PRYNCECTON

Monthly US newsletter covering all sci-fi shows currently in production. PO Box 3194, Princeton, NJ 08543-3194.

REGENERATION QUARTERLY

Predominantly Dr Who newsletter. PO Box 2724, Santa Clara, CA 95055-2724 USA

HORIZON

Blakes 7 fan club. Four magazines per membership 'year'. plus loads else. 18 Bury Ave, Newport Pagnell MK16 0ED

SERENDIPITY STATION DRAKMARIAN ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL SCI-FI FAN CLUB

118 Forest Grove Rd, Caropolis, PA 1508 USA.

<http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Corridor/2127>

Regional co-ordinator for Star Trek based sci-fi fantasy fan club for fans of all genres. For more information visit our web site.

THE WIZARD'S KNOB

Terry Pratchett fanzine. Please send cheque for £2.00 per issue made payable to The Wizard's Knob Magazine. A British subscription rate for 4 issues is £7.00. c/o Steven Dean, TWK, 23 Woodland Vale Rd, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex TN37 6JJ

THE EUROVISION NETWORK

P.O. Box 10864, London E1 9FB. A fan club totally dedicated to all things connected to the Eurovision Song Contest. You get five newsletters per membership year.

LOCAL GROUPS

As with all the clubs, all the local groups were contacted by the handmaidens and the clubs listed below are known to be in existence.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Co Antrim area, Daryl Ball, 37 Mount Street, Ballymena, Co Antrim, Northern Ireland BT43 6BW

PRESTON/CHORLEY/LEYLAND

Debbie Williams, 47 Albany Drive, Walton-le-Dale, Preston, Lancs PR5 4TX - UCL students welcome, even if you go home outside of Local Group area for the holidays.

WEST YORKSHIRE/HUDDERSFIELD

Gemma Williams, 249 Meltham Rd, Netherton, Huddersfield, West Yorks HO4 7HL. If you live near me, get in touch and we can get a group together!

HULL

Are there any Dwarfers or Trekkers in or near Hull that'd like to spend a Saturday wandering around Hull talking and in search of a cheap lunch. I'm 16 and would like to find some similar aged sci-fi-liking company. Michael Raven, 17 Melton Fields, Brickyard Lane, North Ferriby, East Yorkshire HU14 3HE.

KENT/S.E. LONDON

Come on, have some fun (but that depends on how interesting you are) write to me - Bruce Clegg, 17 Maple Close, New Barn Park, Swanley, Kent BR8 7YN.

SMEGGY LOGIC RESULTS

On Monday, Cat went to his cupboard to get dressed and found a leaking pipe had drenched his favourite tiger-patterned underpants. Luckily Lister was there to show him where the radiator was and fix the pipe with him.

On Wednesday Kochanski was having a shower when a loose tile pinged away and out of a hole popped a pair of space weevils who attacked her, scratching her outy bits. Her scream brought Kryten running to (reluctantly) rescue her.

On Thursday Lister was eating in the cockpit whilst Rimmer piloted. Suddenly, Lister's fork flicked out of his hand, poked right into a wall panel marked DANGER- HIGH VOLTAGE. He went to retrieve it but got an amazing electric shock when he touched the metal fork. Rimmer asked him why he didn't read the sign "Oh that" said Lister. "I thought that was a joke." Lister therefore asked Rimmer to help get the fork as a hologram wouldn't conduct electricity.

On Friday Rimmer was piloting again. He started to lose colour. Kochanski, who was passing, pointed out that his remote belt needed a new battery.

On Sunday Kryten was reading, but the book was so boring that his brain started to melt. Cat, who was with him in the Sleeping Quarters, fetched some oil for the mechanoid, who complained of an earache - well, steam was pouring out of his ears.

WANTED: Any info on how to get the episode of *Happy Families* and *Auntie's Bloomers* with Chris Barrie in it. Jennifer Hunter, 2362, CR 284, Auxvasse, MO 65231, USA

WANTED: *Tongue Tied* CD, any RD books, T-shirts and money - ok not money, but what the hell. Simon Taylor, 29 All Saints Way, Aston, Sheffield, S26 2FJ, or tel: 0114 2873606.

FOR SALE: Talkie Toaster video and storage cabinet (as sold by Harvard Assocs through *BTL*) Talkie includes RD logo, hologram and toaster slots at sides and top. Size 15.5" high, 19.25" long at base and 16.75" wide at top. Any offers? Ring: 01622 850347 (Claire)

WANTED: To buy *BTL* 1-10, 13,14,17 and also RD models, plus any unusual RD merchandise. Tel 01782 772750 or write to Shaun, 2 Springhead Close, Talke Pits, Stoke on Trent ST7 1QA

WANTED: RD videos: series V, Bytes 1 and 2 (good condition.) Also **WANTED:** any *Star Wars* merchandise, especially original figures - reasonable prices paid. Contact Mr Adam Leppard, at The Beeches, Chatham Rd, Sandling, Nr Maidstone, Kent ME14 3AY

DOES ANYONE out there have programmes for 2 musicals - Joseph and Godspell which were at the Gaiety Theatre, Isle of Man in Summer '97. Will pay a good price and postage. Kath, 2 Acre Close, Swffryd, Crumlin, Blaenau, Gwent, NP1 5DY, South Wales

MEMBERS' ADVERTS

FOR SALE: Every issue of *Smegazine*, sell as complete set only - good condition, 4 of the 7 free gifts present, sensible offers please. Also old programme guide up to series VI - offers. Tom Grundy 137-139 Franchise St, Wednesbury, West Midlands, S10 9RH

DOUG ANTHONY ALLSTARS fans. I'm a new RD fan and am desperate for articles/photos/videos - (TV appearances only) of the cast. I have piles of DAAs articles/photos and 4 hours of their TV appearances ('88-94) I also love their TV series. I will happily swap/copy/arrange very reasonable prices. Not a limited offer, so no-one misses out. Quick reply guaranteed. Write to: DAAS Swap, 197-95 Napier St, Fitzroy, Victoria, Australia 3065.

FOR SALE: PC CD-Rom computer games. Good condition. Most are 'point and clickers.' Games include *Day of the Tentacle*, *Sam and Max Hit the Road*, *Discworld* and *Simon the Sorcerer* (Chris Barrie does voice) Also *Star Trek Omnipedia* and first update. £5 ONO. Tel: 01786 462008 between 5pm and 8pm ask for Colin

WANTED: Any episodes of *The 10%ers* on video. Prepared to pay a fair price. Contact Rebekah Williams, 16 Rowan Court, Wharf Rd, Kings Norton, Birmingham B30 3LN

WANTED: RD t-shirts, 1995 calendar, original posters (from Scandecor) badges, keyrings, baseball caps, surf jams, mugs etc. Also copies of *Married With Children*. DS9 - can anyone with Sky record any episodes for me? Piran Broadbelt, 15 Lower Hill Barton Rd, Exeter, Devon EX1 3EJ

FOR SALE: *Smegazines* Vol 1 (all), Vol 2 (1-8), *Making Of*, *Companion*, *Primordial Soup*, 96 calendar. *DJ 97* booklet (signed by CB, CA, HH, DJJ, DN) and flyer signed by CB and a few bits more. Ring Caz on 01886 884 795 (Worcestershire area)

MAN WITH CAMCORDER AT DIMENSION JUMP. You filmed me dancing with Chris Barrie. Please could I have a copy? I'll pay for postage and packing and will send you something in exchange. Joanna Kennedy, Rock Cottage, 81 Kewstoke Rd, Worle, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset BS22 9JY

ATTENTION ALL ARTISTS! I'm a writer/artist looking to gather a group of comic-strip artists to help me illustrate an original RD comic-strip serial for *BTL*. I'm the bloke who wrote *Genderitis* which featured in *BTL fan Fiction Volume 1*, so that'll give you some idea of what the script will be (weird!) All artists and styles welcome (not really cartoony styles though) You will be given complete artistic freedom to portray the script in your own style. Interested? Contact: Andrew Waugh, 19 Wilton Hill, Hawick, Scottish Borders, Scotland TD9 8BA

LOOKING FOR: Decent copy of Alexei Sayle's *Train To Hell* or *Geoffrey The Tube Train* and the *Fat Comedian*, also French and Saunders - *A Feast of Fun* and Robert Llewellyn's *The Man in the Rubber Mask*. I'll buy or borrow any of these if any one has one in good condition. Contact: Philippa Rushworth, St Moritz Hotel, Trebetherick, Wadebridge, Cornwall PL27 6SD

WANTED: *BTL* 1-9, any *Smegazines* except vol 2, nos 3,4 & 8. Any of the RD models, Joe Nazzaro's *Stasis Leak* newsletters and any *DJ* (convention) videos or photos. Excellent prices paid. Contact Piran Broadbelt, 15 Lower Hill Barton Rd, Exeter, Devon EX1 3EJ

FOR SALE: Many different cactus plants and succulents, many flower at different times of the year. Phone between 5pm and 8pm as for Colin. 01786 462008

BALANCE OF POWER

This would have been called *Caroline's Competitions* but Bev has stolen them all from me, along with my prizes. Still, nevermind, it just means there will be better competitions for you all next time around.....

Well, what can we say about DJ'98!!! Saturday had to be the best part of any *Dimension Jump* I had ever been to. As always the cast were at their funniest. But the person who stole the whole show for me was little Anna-Jo. What a superstar. No prizes for guessing what she's going to be when she grows up.

And what a disco!! Firstly, Elvis (Clayton Mark) was hysterically funny (even if he didn't make a comment about my bottom in front of 600 people!!)

I thought the cast all singing (and Robert's dancing) was the funniest thing I had seen in years. Steev and I nearly didn't manage to do the fancy dress competition as our stomachs hurt so much from laughing. Talking of the fancy dress, I'd just like to thank all those who took part - all the costumes were superb. Elvis certainly seemed impressed with it all.

And who were the lucky ones who danced with the cast??? I could have been accused of dancing, but it was more like staggering around (and nearly falling over!!!)

I hope you all enjoyed it as much we all did. The only complaint I have is that I really could have done with a new pair of feet at about 10pm Saturday night. Boy did they hurt.

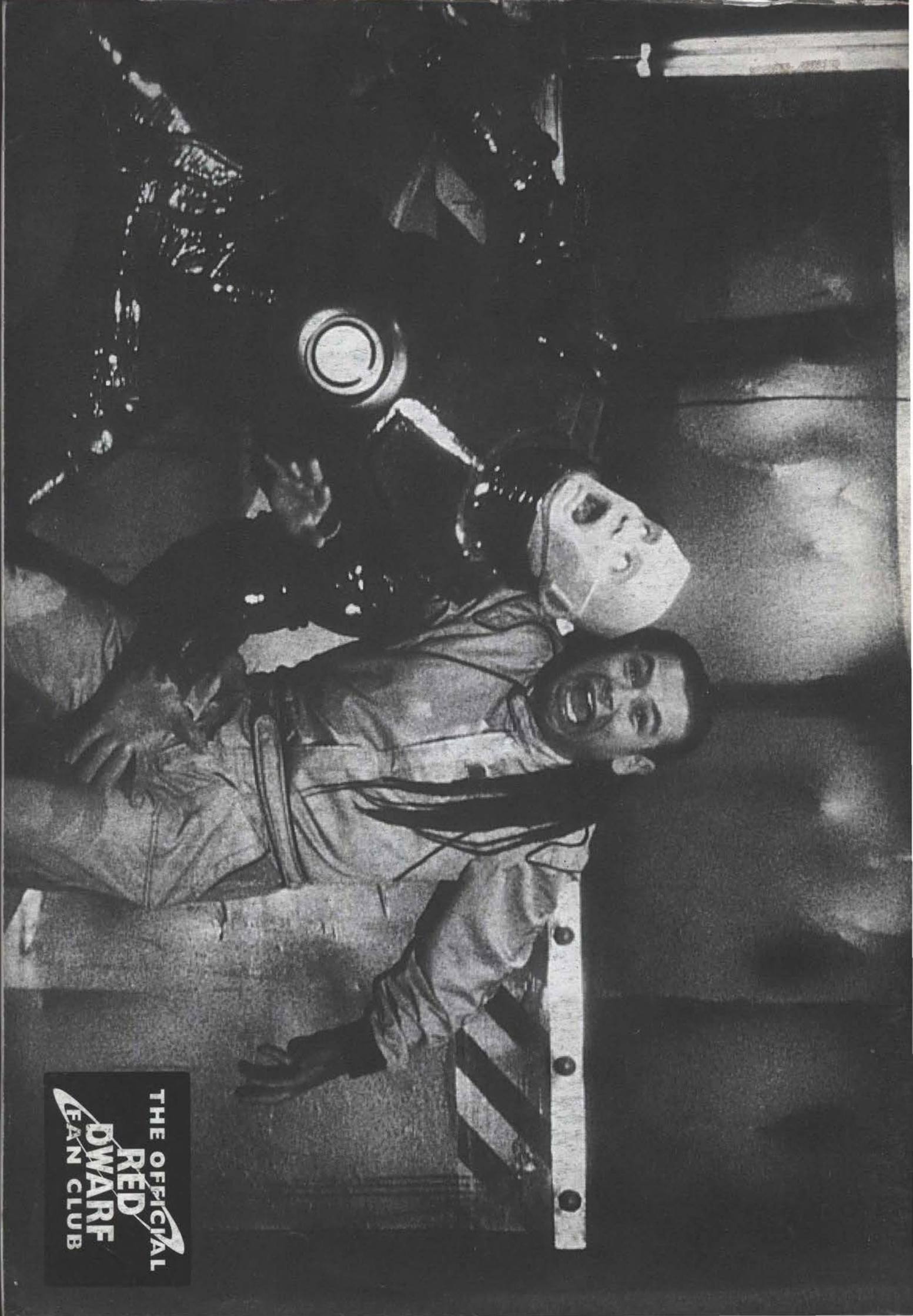
I'd also like to thank those of you who came along. (It seemed like the whole universe was in that room on Friday night- until the sprout crumble came out) Well done

to the four mad lunatics who ate them. Yuk!!

A big thank you needs to be said to the wonderful Diane Hinton and Kim Stephenson for their help - especially Diane who manned the registration desk Saturday morning so no-one would miss out - what a superstar!!! Thank-you. Thank-you!!!

It just remains to say a big hello to everyone I met over the weekend. It wouldn't have been the same without you!!!

CAROLINE 47



THE OFFICIAL
**RED
DWARF**
FAN CLUB